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REFERENCE BOOK

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009, 6:00 P.M. 20 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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# MEETING AGENDA HAPPY NEW YEAR

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

# 7. REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Review of Bylaws in coordination with the Administrative Code.

Re-opening of nominations for President, Vice President and Secretary for 2010. Nominated at Dec. 7, 2009 meeting:

President; Veronika Cauley, James Guglielmoni & Robert Varni.

Vice President; Raymond Wong.

Secretary; Dara Wong.

Election of officers for 2010.

- A. PRESIDENT Comm. Levin -
- B. VICE PRESIDENT Comm. Varni -
- C. SECRETARY Comm. Dara Wong -
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS Comm. Noetzel -
- E. EMPLOYMENT Comm. Thompson -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE Comm. Cauley -
- r. HEALTH & WELFARE Comm. Caulty
- G. HOMELESS VETERANS Comm. Gibbs -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION Comm. R. Wong -
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS Comm. R. Wong VFW report,
- Comm. Guglielmoni DAV report, Comm. Caldera American Legion report.
- J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING Comm. Levin -
- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS -
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,160+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide during the month of December.

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Frank Darby. Administrator Sunshine Ordinance Task Force 554-7724

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# LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2009 MEETING 415-554-6036

FEB - 1 2010

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President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. & led the Pledge.
Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, John Caldera, Renie Champagne,
George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Stephen Noetzel,
Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong & Raymond Wong.
Commissioner not present: Veronka Cauley was excused. 14 commissioners present & 1
excused. Margaret Champagne & Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass were present.
Comm. Champagne moved approval of agenda, 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni. Motion
passed. Comm. Caldera moved approval of the corrected minutes of Dec. meeting, 2nd by
Comm. Noetzel. Motion passed.

REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE CODE & COMMISSION BYLAWS - President Levin and Deputy City Attorney reviewed the Board of Supervisors Administrative Code and the commission Bylaws. Commissioners will receive material on the Code & Bylaws in Jan.

<u>VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT</u> - Comm. Varni reported that he was going to meet with officials at City College of San Francisco to discuss plans to form a veterans club at CCSF.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2010 - The results of the election for 2010 officers were, James Guglielmoni President, Raymond Wong Vice President and Dara Wong Secretary. Per the request of Comm. Champagne a motion to accept the results of the election was made by Comm. Cuglielmoni, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Caldera. Motion passed to accept tally sheet.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - Comm. Dara Wong & Raymond Wong reported on the Wreaths Across America national project to honor members of the Armed Forces that have been killed & those now serving in the military. Ceremony was held at the Presidio.

HONORS FOR RENIE CHAMPAGNE, RAYMOND WONG & DARA WONG - Comm. Levin, as Coordinator of the Memorial Day Ceremony presented awards to Master of Ceremonies Emeritus Renie Champagne, Master of Ceremonies Raymond Wong and Written Program Editor Dara Wong, for their dedicated service to the Mayor's Memorial Day Citizen's Committee 2009 and their work during the past decade.

<u>HOMELESS VETERANS</u> - Comm. Noetzel reported that he was working on a plan to help the Census Bureau better identify homeless veterans.

EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson reported that the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Employment Committee Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason, on May 12, 1010. The invitations are out.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Raymond Wong reported that the 111<sup>th</sup>
Congress approved funding for VA Health Care in the amount of 47.5 billion for 2010
and 48.2 billion for 2011. The VA is still having problems getting veterans claims approved.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is the number one veterans group in providing services to disabled veterans and in filing veterans claims. During last December the DAV passed out 500 pocket calendars to the veterans at Fort Miley Hospital.

Comm. Caldera reported that American Legion Bob Basker Post 315 visited the veterans at Fort Miley on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. They passed out over a hundred Holiday cards and music CD's,

FAREWELL TO COMMISSIONER JILL BUCK - President Levin thanked Jill Buck for her service to the commission and to veterans. Her term will end on Jan. 31, 2010 and she will not continue to serve on the commission. She told the Commissioners that it was an honor serving with them and she wished everyone the best in the future.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin reported that under the sound and stable leadership of Roger Dong & Nelson Lum, the American Legion War Memorial Commission is now on the right track and that they are doing everything they can to get things running in a democratic manner.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2010 - Comm. Champagne installed the new commission officers; President James Guglielmoni, Vice President Raymond Wong and Secretary Dara Wong.

FIRST SAN FRANCISCAN KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN — Comm. Levin reported that on December 25, 2009, Staff Sgt. David H. Gutierrez was killed by an IED in Afghanistan and he became the first San Franciscan killed in Afghanistan. He was stationed at Kandahar Air Field, had served a tour in Iraq and was at the end of his tour in Afghanistan. His wife and 3 sons were living at Fort Lewis, Washington, which was the home base for his unit. Many of his relatives live in Santa Clara County. It was reported on TV that his burial was to be in Gilroy, because his daughter had her burial there. Mayor Gavin Newsom placed San Francisco's flags at half staff in his honor and the Mayor sent a letter of condoience to his wife.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,160+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans who died because of suicide during the month of December, former Veterans Affairs Commissioners Bud Wilson, Corky Reed, Fred Gomez and the first San Franciscan killed in Afghanistan Staff Sgt. David H. Gutierrez.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

# MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 7. REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Review of Board of Supervisors Administrative Code forming the comm. (1 & 1B) Review of Board of Supervisors: Administrative Code commission changes. (2 to 5) Review of Veterans Affairs Commission original Bylaws. (6) Review of new changes to the Veterans Affairs Commission Bylaws. (7)

- A. PRESIDENT Comm. Guglielmoni
- B. VICE PRESIDENT Comm. Raymond Wong
- C. SECRETARY Comm. Dara Wong
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS Comm. Levin
- E. EMPLOYMENT Comm. Thompson Comm. Wilkerson
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE Comm. Cauley Comm. Varni Comm. Noetzel
- G. HOMELESS VETERANS Comm. Gibbs Comm. Noetzel
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION Comm. R. Wong
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS Comm. R. Wong VFW report,
- Comm. Guglielmoni DAV report, Comm. Caldera American Legion report.
- J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING Comm. Levin
- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS -
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,200+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide during the month of January.

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# City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

President Guglielmoni called the meeting to order at 6:16PM, a quorum being present. President Guglielmoni led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				
	present	absent	excused	
James Guglielmoni	Х			
Regalado Baldonado	×			
John Caldera	X			
Veronika Cauley			×	
Renie Champagne			×	
George Gibbs	X			0.01/2011111111
Chris Gruwell	X			GOVERNMENT
Wallace Levin	×			DOCUMENTS DEPT
Stephen Noetzel	X			
Michael Thompson	х			APR - 2 2010
Robert Varni	×			711 N 2 2010
Edwin Wilkerson	X			0.111.
Raymond Wong	X			SAN FRANCISCO
Dara Wong	×			PUBLIC LIBRARY

Twelve (12) commissioners present, two (2) commissioners excused, eight (7) commissioners required for quorum.

Acceptance for approval of January  $4^{th}$ , 2010 minutes. Motion by Commissioner D. Wong,  $2^{nd}$  by Commissioner Thompson. Commissioner Noetzel voiced abstention.

Acceptance for approval of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Levin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Baldonado. Commissioner Noetzel voiced abstention.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

AL comrade, Anthony Affidi offered his remarks toward the VFW. The Veterans of Foreign Wars <a href="http://www.yfw.org">http://www.yfw.org</a> was formed and organized in **September 29<sup>th</sup>**, **1899**, and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars <a href="http://www.hdicauxyfs.org">http://www.hdicauxyfs.org</a> was formed and organized on **September 14<sup>th</sup>**, **1914**, long before the AL was organized.

The following committee reports were submitted:

### PAST PRESIDENT'S LEVIN REPORT

For the record, the Board of Supervisors Administrative Code (1, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5), the Veterans Affairs Commission original bylaws (6), changes to Veterans Affairs Commission bylaws (7), hardcopies were USPS delivered daily between January 16-31, 2010 for the commission's review. At November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 meeting, the suggested housekeeping changes to the commission's bylaws were presented, my question: what are the powers and duties of the commission? As mention in section 5.104 "submit recommendations", "make recommendations". Commission Levin's good intentions, are to update the bylaws with no big danges, the bylaws cannot conflict with the Administrative code. By e-mail, Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass explained the Brown Act requirements and prohibitions. Motion by Commissioner Levin to accept the changes to Veterans Affairs Commission bylaws (7). President Guglielmoni, Commissioner(s) Caldera, Gibbs, Gruwell, Levin, Varni, R. Wong offered their comments, cannot move forward with Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass guidance. Eleven (11) commission members accepting changes, one (1) commission member opposed, no abstention.

# City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of February 1st, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Guglielmoni was reappointed DAV Department Chief of State, also mentioned the plaintree advantage hospital model will be replicated at the

California Veterans Home 10900 Telephone Road Ventura, CA 93004-1870

Commissioner Caldera reported 9 commissioners for quorum of 17 commission members under new; 8 commissioners for quorum of 15 commission members under old.

President Guglielmoni, Commissioner Caldera, Gibbs, Noetzel offered their comments on the standing committees (ad hoc, short-term). President Guglielmoni suggested e-mail your interests, part of committee, part of acenda.

Commissioner R. Wong reported there are thousands and thousands of stolen valor cases being FBI investigated, i.e., Gil Lucas, Madera, Fresno county

# **HEALTH & WELFARE**

Commissioner Varni reported the organization of a City College of San Francisco veterans club, the facility (administrative office, interview rooms, CSVO office, private lounge area) will be open 2010 fall semester, the club president has been selected. In the quest to seek relevance for the commission, Commissioner Varni has agreed to focus the next three weekly television interviews on the Veterans Affairs Commission: 1st interview would feature the President Guglielmoni discussing future plans; 2nd interview would feature Past President Levin, commission's past accomplishments; 3nd interview would feature various commission members, their participation in future plans.

President Guglielmoni, Commissioner(s) Gibbs, Noetzel offered their comments. Commissioner Noetzel suggestion of registry of birth defects, poisoning, veterans court, working with William Leon (regional director, Seattle region, census bureau, March 31, 2010)

### WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Commissioner Levin reported John Ferret re-doing ALWMC financials, five (5) active AL posts, Jaime Lopez available 1:00-5:00PM room 101

### NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

President Guglielmoni reported on DAV national/department activities.

Commissioner R. Wong reported on VFW 14th district Voice of Democracy awards ceremony.

Commissioner Levin reported dwindling participation, AL department, mayor's proclamation, ALWMC activities, his name mentioned in AL department four chaplains ceremony at Saint Mary's Cathedral.

Commissioner Thompson reported on February 23, 2010 event at the Basque center, South San Francisco, 400 persons, \$ 27.00 per person.

Commissioner Caldera reported his television interview discussing "don't ask, don't tell", Supervisor Mirkarimi's proclamation.

# City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

### VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson reported 100 invitations sent, for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual VEC/EDD job fair, Fort Mason Center space, May 12, 2010 event, 2,600 invitations to be sent to participate, \$ 400.00 per table, before April 30, 2010 deadline; \$ 450.00 per table, after April 30, 2010

### **HOMELESS VETERANS**

Project Homeless Connect 33 will be held on Wednesday, February 24 2010, at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium

# LEGISLATION EVALUATION

Commissioner R. Wong reported on the introduction:

- AB 498 Vehicles: special interest license plates, sponsored by Mary Hayashi (Hayward); supporting ex-POWs' option to purchase veterans' license plate instead, without fees
- AB 1088 Taxpayer contributions: California Veterans Fund, sponsored by Nathan Fletcher (San Diego)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Levin reported being interview SFGTV channel 29 Battle of the Bulge, December 12, 2009

Commissioner R. Wong reported United States Postal Service first day of issue ceremony in California State Capitol, Sacramento of distinguished sailors who served with bravery and distinction during the 20<sup>th</sup> century: William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy, Doris Miller

Commissioner Noetzel expresses his displeasure of Brown Act violations: 72 hours notice agenda item posted, public meeting, open to public.

Commissioner R. Wong reported Robert Kelley died 38.5 years ago in 1972, his family request reimbursement for disinterment, reburial, buried in paupers' gravesite, his case deferred to CVSO, mayor's office. President Guglielmoni, Commissioner(s) Gibbs, Noetzel offered their comments.

Commissioner Levin reported on Presidio Memorial Day ceremony, work-in-progress.

### HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in memory of the 5,378 Americans killed in Iraq (4,369) and Afghanistan (1,009), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of January, John Alfred Smith (San Diego county), Isaac Hudson killed November 11, 2009, columnist Herb Caan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24PM



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION 1390 MARKET STREET, 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102 (415-554-6036)

# THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

MONDAY

MARCH 1, 2010

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

MEETING

FEB > 8 2010

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HAS BEEN

# CANCELLED



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

# MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 7. REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Open and public vote for 2010 Commission Officers.

President, Vice President and Secretary,

because of a formal Brown Act complaint made by Commissioner Stephen Noetzel.

Nominated for President: Veronika Cauley, Jim Guglielmoni, and Robert Varni,

Nominated for Vice President; Raymond Wong.

Nominated for Secretary; Dara Wong.

DOCUMENTS DEPT

Consideration and possible adoption of commission by laws.

MAR 3 0 2010

- A. PRESIDENT -
- B. VICE PRESIDENT -
- C. SECRETARY -
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS -
- E. EMPLOYMENT -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE -
- G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION -
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING -

died because of suicide during the months of February and March.

- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS -

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,180+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who

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### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

President Guglielmoni asked Commissioner Levin to call the meeting to order at 6:06PM, a quorum being present. Commissioner Levin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL			ELECTION OF OFFICERS						
	present	absent	excused	Cauley	Gugllelmoni	Varni	Levin	R.Wong	D.Wong
James Gugllelmoni	×				×			X	×
Regalado Baldonado	×				X			X	. x
John Caldera	×				x	1		X	x
Veronika Cauley			×						1
Renie Champagne	×						×	×	×
George Glbbs	×				X			×	×
Chris Gruwell	×				×			X	_ x
Wallace Levin	×				x			X	×
Stephen Noetzel	×				×			×	×
Michael Thompson	×			L .	×			. x	×
Robert Varni	×			L	1		X	x	x
Edwin Wilkerson	×				1	×		X	X
Raymond Wong	×				×	1		×	X
Dara Wong	x				×			X	X

Thirteen (13) commissioners present, one (1) commissioner excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Margaret Champagne, Wayne Snodgrass (Deputy City Attorney) were present.

Commissioner Caldera motion to postpone acceptance of February 1<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 minutes, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 agenda, until election of officers completed.

Commissioner Noetzel's point of order to set aside January 4th, 2010 election, because of Brown Act. Re-election of officers ensued, before other commission's business.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Past President Levin asked Margaret Champagne and Wayne Snodgrass to be ballot tabulators, results as follows:

Preside	מנ	James Guglielmoni	10 votes
		Veronika Cauley	0 votes
		Robert Varni	1 votes
write-ir	votes	Wallace Levin	2 votes
Vice Pr	esident	Raymond Wong	12 votes
Secreta	irv	Dara Wong	12 votes

Acceptance for approval of April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 election results. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner D. Wong, motion passed. Wayne Snodgrass reported election results will be made available.

### EDIFICATION

Veterans Affairs Commission was created in 1984

The Brown Act is California's law governing the conduct of meetings of "legislative bodies." (created 2004, Government Code \$4950 et. seq.) Included within the definition of "legislative body" is a "commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, whether permanent, or temporary, decision-making or advisory, created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body...(Government Code \$4952(b)).

The Sunshine Ordinance is the City's law governing the conduct of "policy bodies"...Is any board, commission, committee, or other body created by ordinance or resolution of the Board of Supervisors...(San Francisco Administrative Code 67.3(d)(4)).

Acceptance for approval of April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni, 2<sup>rd</sup> by Commissioner Wilkerson, motion passed.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

MAY - 3 2010

### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

Acceptance for approval of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Guglielmonl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by President Guglielmonl, Commissioner(s) Noetzel/Varni voted to abstain. Commissioner Noetzel passed out his written revision of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 minutes, much discussion ensued. Re-acceptance for approval of secretary's February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Gruwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Champagne. Commissioner Gibbs mentioned this is NOT freshman English class, motion passed.

### NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following committee reports were submitted:

### PAST PRESIDENT'S LEVIN BYLAWS REPORT

Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass, in detail, went over various documents, circulated by Commissioner Levin. Commissioner Levin went over the needed housekeeping changes for the commission bylaws: residency rules, deletes category, attendance

Commissioner Caldera commends Commissioner Levin's efforts to cleanup the commission's bylaws, motion for acceptance for approval of numerous bylaws ! - #5 changes. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2" by Commissioner Levin. Commissioner Noetzel's alternative motion to additional changes to bylaws #6 - #9, was tabled.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Guglielmoni reported on DAV national/department activities, mentioned Commissioner(s) Wong were involved in similar VFW national/department activities, was NOT available for a March 1<sup>rt</sup>, 2010 meeting, due to Brown Act concerns. Past President Levin took upon himself to cancelled March meeting, could not rescheduled, due to unavailability of commission member.

### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Commissioner R.Wong raised concerns that the commission could have corrected and/or resolve disagreements without going to the state legislative analyst office, Board of Supervisors, etc. Board of Supervisors created the Veterans Affairs Commission, and can be dissolve.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner D. Wong reported that Commissioner(s) Gibbs, R. Wong, D. Wong attended the Sheriff's Department COVER February 25, 2010 meeting, 48 male veterans-defendants county jail POD, one (1) female veteran-defendant; program to assist incarcerated veterans.

### **HEALTH & WELFARE**

Commissioner Noetzel suggested protocol to identify veterans among homeless to be worked with after 2010 census.

### NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

Commissioner Thompson reported on February 23, 2010 luncheon, Basque cultural center, South San Francisco, attended by returning Iraq/ Afghanistan veterans.

# VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson reported 2,400 Invitations sent, for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual VEC/EDD job fair, Fort Mason conference center, May 12, 2010 event, \$ 400.00 per table, before April 30, 2010 deadline; \$ 450.00 per table, after April 30, 2010, seven (?) employers sent money in to participate; asked State Senator Leland Yee, Ph.D. (D-8<sup>th</sup> District), and Assemblywoman Fiona Ma (D-12<sup>th</sup> District) to support

### HOMELESS VETERANS

Commissioner Gibbs reported East Bay Stand Down 2010 planning April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting, Alameda county fairgrounds, event to be held August 5-8, 2010. Project Homeless Connect 34 will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2010, Bayview Hunters Polnt, both events accepting volunteers. President Güglielmoni reported Secretary of Veterans Affairs Shinseki (U.S. Army General Retired) driving van in Sacramento, picking up homeless, good rapport, to commit \$ 4.1 billion; 5years plan to eliminate homelessness, transitional services.

### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of April 5th, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

### LEGISLATION EVALUATION

Commissioner R. Wong reported on the introduction:

- AB 1703 State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education: veterans homes (Stephen Knight, Lancaster)
  - AB 1757 Veterans cemetery (William Monning, Santa Cruz)
  - AB 1829 Military decorations: fraud (Paul Cook, Yucaipa)
  - AB 2309 Veterans' Home of California (Nathan Fletcher, San Diego
  - . AB 1056 Income taxes: hiring credit: veterans (Jeff Denham, Merced)
- 111th Congress (1st session) VFW-support legislative accomplishments that became public law
  - Public Law 111-81 Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009
  - Public Law 111-82 Authorize Major Medical Facility Leases for FY2010
     Public Law 111-97 Military Spouses Residency Relief Act
  - Public Law 111-97 Fillibry Spouses Residency Relief Acc
     Public Law 111-84 FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act

### OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Champagne reported he has been 48 years as parade director (Italian Heritage, Saint Patrick's, veterans)

Commissioner Levin reported that the planning May 31st, 2010 Presidio Memorial Day ceremony on track.

Commissioner Noetzel requested copies of annual report, letters to Board of Supervisors be made available to him, from past commission president.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Guglielmoni is bringing a 32-foot fishing boat, seeking a slip to be donated, in a public harbor, for fishing derby, by Monterey Bay veterans rehabilitation center, \$ 5,000.00 funds to support fuel had been donated, \$ 7,000.00 funds to support activities, needs the commission to support letter.

Commissioner Baldonado's ADO/AGO-55 is not DD-214, notarized Filiplno discharged papers, various VSOs cannot assist him. Commissioner Levin referred him to a Contra Costa county attorney. Commissioner Gruwell mentioned the commission has no jurisdiction over AL, VFW bylaws or eligibility.

Commissioner Noetzel questioned why nine (9) seated commissioners' expiration January 31, 2011. President Guglielmoni asked Commissioner Gruwell, who advised the commission, it is the Board of Supervisors pejorative, to appoint on Board of Supervisors calendar. Commissioner Levin mentioned Board of Supervisors rules committee clerk changes every other year. Commissioner Gruwell recommended taking no action pertaining to this issue.

### HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in memory of the 5,421 Americans killed in Iraq (4,380) and Afghanistan (1,041), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of February, March.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44PM



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

# MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### 7. REPORTS

- A. PRESIDENT -
- B. VICE PRESIDENT -
- C. SECRETARY -
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS -
- E. EMPLOYMENT -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE -
- G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION -
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- J. VETERANS PROJECTS
- K. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING -

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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# 8. OLD BUSINESS -

9. NEW BUSINESS – Discussion and possible action in support of the Planning Commissions approval of a plan to convert 150 Otis St. into permanent living space for homeless veterans.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,200+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in April.

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Frank Darby. Administrator Sunshine Ordinance Task Force 554-7724

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# DISABILITY ACCESS

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# LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2010 MEETING 415-454-6036

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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President Guglielmoni called the meeting to order a 6:05 P.M. & led the Pledge LIC LIBRARY Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Stephen Noetzel, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong and Raymond Wong. Commissioner Jill Buck was not present and was excused. Margaret Champagne, Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass and Anthony Alfidi were also present. 14 commissioners present, 1 excused and 2 not appointed. Comm. Cauley moved approval of agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Thompson. Motion passed. Comm. Noetzel and Baldonado had corrections for the minutes of the April meeting and approval was tabled.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Comm. Guglielmoni reported that there had been problems in one southern California City, pertaining to the tagging of vehicles with DAV license plates.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Comm. Raymond Wong reported that he attended the California State Commanders Veterans Counsel meeting in Sacramento. They are attempting to obtain enough requests for a new Gold Star family license plate and that they need additional requests to reach the needed number to produce the plate.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Comm. Dara Wong reported that she and Raymond Wong presented VFW JROTC & ROTC Awards at various local schools & colleges.

HEALTH AND WELFARE - Comm. Noetzel is gathering information on the health effects of depleted uranium ammunition on our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Levin reported that at the request of Raymond Wong, he represented the VFW at the successful University of San Francisco ROTC Cadet Awards Ceremony.

Comm. Caldera, Commander of American Legion Post 315, reported many positive changes have occurred in the operation of the American Legion War Memorial Commission & District 8. His post will hold a Veterans Building Luau on July 4th.

COMMISSION GOAL AND PLANS - Per Comm. Noetzel's request, Comm. Levin presented copies of the letter sent to the Presidio Trust thanking them for their National Cemetery Overlook and the Japanese American Veterans exhibit. A letter sent to the Board of Supervisors thanking them for their ceremony honoring veterans and conveying our concern about the Veterans Affairs Commission legislation that they passed without our knowledge. A letter that Comm. Wong sent to Assemblywoman Mary Salas thanking her for her support to veterans. And copies of the Commission's 2009 Report were made available.

Comm. Varni requested an explanation of the relationship between what we do individually and what the commission does. President Guglielmoni stated that as commissioners everything we do for veterans, we do also as commissioners and that it is part of what the commission is all about, since we are only an advisory commission. That we now have on our agenda, VETERANS PROJECTS to cover this area.

EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson reported that the 20<sup>th</sup> Job Fair would be held at Fort Mason on May 12. Nineteen employers will be on hand with job opportunities. They would like to have the 2011 Job Fair at the Veterans Building.

HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs reported that the August East Bay Stand Down is moving along and that they are attempting to help those that have no other aid available. Comm. Cauley reported that the next San Francisco June Homeless Connect would be held in the Bayview Hunters Point area.

VETERANS PROJECTS - Comm. Varni reported that there are a number of veteran events that take place every month and that the commission should do more to help promote them. That these events should be placed on the VAC website. President Guglielmoni reported that we will make a better effort to promote veteran events on our website and that our Bylaw's clearly states that the secretary is our Webmaster, under the direction of the President. If anyone has veteran events that they want placed on the website, they should contact the President.

Comm. Levin reported on the War Memorial Board of Trustees Veteran's Building Memorial Court project, under the leadership of Trustee Major General Michael Myatt. The American Legion War Memorial Commission Chairman, Roger Dong is also Chairman of this projects Working Committee.

Comm. Levin reviewed the organizational planning for the Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony. The main theme of the event is the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

NEW BUSINESS - Comm. Gibbs brought up the subject of free street vending licenses for veterans and that he will be checking into this issue.

Comm. Levin made a motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Caldera to support the Planning Commissions approval of the plan to convert 150 Otis Street into permanent housing for homeless veterans and we urge the Board of Supervisors to move this very important project forward. Motion passed.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT – in memory of the 5,300+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, and the veterans that died because of suicide during the months of March and April.

Dara Wong, Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

# MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 7. REPORTS
  - A. PRESIDENT -
  - B. VICE PRESIDENT -
  - C. SECRETARY -
  - D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS -
  - E. EMPLOYMENT -
  - F. HEALTH & WELFARE -
  - G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
  - H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION -
  - I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
  - J. VETERANS PROJECTS -
  - K. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING -
- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS Discussion and possible action:

Veterans Employment Committee EDD 2011 Job Fair at the War Memorial Veterans Building.

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Future Veterans Affairs Commission space requirements in the War Memorial Veterans Building.

War Memorial Board of Trustees Memorial Court Veterans Memorial. 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,400+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in May.

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# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2010 MEETING 415-554-6036

Vice President Raymond Wong called the meeting to order a 6:20 P.M. & led the Pledge. Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Wallace Levin, Stephen Noetzel, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong and Raymond Wong, Commissioners Jill Buck, James Guglielmoni, Veronika Cauley, Chris Gruwell, Michael Thompson and Robert Varni were not present and were excused. Margaret Champagne and Anthony Alffidi were also present.

9 commissioners present, 6 excused and 2 not appointed.

Comm. Noetzel moved approval of agenda, 2nd by Comm. Caldera. Motion passed.

Because the minutes of the May meeting had not been completed, Comm. Caldera made a motion to table approval until the next meeting of the commission. Second by Comm. Noetzel. Motion passed. Comm. Levin inquired if the April minutes had been corrected for approval. They were not ready for approval and a motion was made by Comm. Noetzel to table the April minutes until the next commission meeting. Second by Comm. Levin. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Anthony Alffidi reported that he has made application for appointment to the Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC). He will be called back to active duty, but he will be stationed in the Bay Area and he will continue to live in San Francisco.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Comm. Raymond Wong reported that the Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony went very well and attendance surpassed previous years and he thanked all of the commissioners that attended the event.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Comm. Dara Wong reported on other Memorial Weekend activities including Boy Scout's placement of flags on all of the grave markers at the National Cemeteries, Marines Memorial Observance, USS Pompanito ceremony and the USS San Francisco Monument ceremony at Lands End.

COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS - Future VAC space requirements in the War Memorial Veterans Building. Comm. Levin reviewed the time line of the War Memorial Trustees Retrofit Plan for the Veterans Building. The building closing date is set for Jan. 1, 2013 and the return date is 2016. The commission has had a desk in room 123 for 26 years. That the VAC should request future use of an office, storage space and a meeting room. Since these requests must be presented prior to the next meeting, Comm. Levin made a motion that our future needs in the Veterans Building be forwarded to the American Legion War Memorial Commission. Second by Comm. Wilkerson. Motion passed.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – Comm. Dara Wong reported that there were 292 veteran job seekers and 20 employers in attendance at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Employment Committee EDD Job Fair. Because they would like to have the 2011 Job Fair at the Veterans Building, Comm. Levin made a motion that the 2011 Job Fair be held at the Veterans Building, Second by Comm. Gibbs. Motion passed.

HOMELESS VETERANS – Comm. Gibbs reported on the Veterans East Bay Stand Down and COVEN program regarding a dedicated jail area to house inmates that are veterans. Comm. Noetzel reported on the June 3<sup>rd</sup> announcement by HUD and the VA, that they are going to prioritize 8000 HUD public housing vouchers for homeless veterans.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Raymond Wong submitted copies of a review of current state and federal bills that would effect veterans.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Caldera submitted a letter pertaining to accusations that the prior leadership of the American Legion District 8 and the American Legion War Memorial Commission, had not handled these organizations finances in a proper manner. Since the American Legion Department of California was conducting an investigation into this matter, Comm. Levin suggested that Comm. Caldera consult with Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, as to what authority and action that the VAC might take pertaining to this matter.

VETERANS PROJECTS – Comm. Levin reported on the War Memorial Board of Trustees Memorial Court Veterans Memorial project. This is a 3 year project, with a goal of raising two and half million dollars. Trustee J. Michael Myatt is moving the project forward and he is the Chairman of the Trustees Veterans Committee and of this project. American Legion War Memorial Commission Chairman Roger Dong is Chairman of the project's Working Committee. That the VAC should support this important project to honor veterans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Comm. Caldera invited everyone to attend American Legion Post 315's July 4<sup>th</sup> Luau at the Veterans Building, room 207.

HONORS REPORT AND ADJOURNMENT – In memory of the 5,400+ Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide during May.

Dara Wong, Commission Secretary

# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION TAKES IT'S SUMMER RECESS IN JULY AND NO MEETING IS HELD.

NEXT MEETING OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 2, 2010, 6:00 P.M., AT THE
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING,
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

# MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL, MAY & JUNE MEETINGS
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 7. REPORTS
  - A. PRESIDENT -
  - B. VICE PRESIDENT -
  - C. SECRETARY -
  - D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS -
  - E. EMPLOYMENT -
  - F. HEALTH & WELFARE -
  - G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
  - H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION -

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- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS Comm. Caldera's accusations against the prior leadership of American Legion District 8 and the War Memorial Veterans Commission. Discussion and possible action.
- J. VETERANS PROJECTS War Memorial Board of Trustees Memorial Court Veterans Monument Project. Discussion & possible action.
- K. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING Future Veterans Affairs Commission space requirements in the Veterans Building. Discussion and possible action.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS -
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,450+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in June.

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# August 2, 2010

Veterans' Affairs Commission - August 2, 2010

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2010 MEETING 415-554-6036

DOCUMENTS DEPT

Vice President Raymond Wong called the meeting to order a6:10 P.M. & led the Pledge.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, RenieChampagne, George Gibbs, Wallace Levin, Stephen Noetzel, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong, and Raymond Wong. Commissioners JillBuck, Veronika Cauley, Chris Gruwell and James Guglielmoni, were not presentand were excused.

Also present were Margaret Champagne, Anthony Alfidi, Michael Williams, Jeff Thompson and James Knudstrup. 11 commissioners present, 4 excused and 2 not appointed.

Comm. Noetzel moved approval of agenda as corrected, 2ndby Comm. Caldera. Motion passed.

Comm. Noetzel moved approval of the June minutes, with Comm. Caldera's correction of changing the wording under National Veterans Groups toread, "Commission Caldera submitted a letter pertaining to formal charges". Second by Comm. Wilkerson. Motion passed.

Comm. Caldera moved approval of the May minutes, second by Comm. Thompson. Passed.

Comm. Noetzel moved approval of the April minutes, second by Comm. Thompson. Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Michael Williams, who is working on a newprogram to bring Veterans Service Organizations (VSO'S), into the VeteransBuilding arter the VeteransBuilding arter in Everans Building retroff. He is doing this for the American Legion War Memorial Commission. The plan is to bring

groups into thebuilding like the Vets Center, County Veterans Service Office, etc. All this tohelp the returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The

plan must be presented tothe War Memorial Trustees on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to move theminto the area where the present veterans organizations offices are located. This is the same area that the Arts Commission wants to put in an Art Gallery. Jeff Thompson and James Knudstrup from the new Veterans Clubat City College of San Francisco, reported that they have been working on thermew Veterans Resource Center. They are getting it ready for the opening of thenew semester. One room will be a meeting place for veterans and the other roomwill be for offices, where veterans can get services. The VeteransAdministration will be conducting office hours once a week and they

have received a lot of support. They have a dozen active members presently. The veteranspopulation in Spring 2008 was 75, Spring 2009 was 150 and Spring 2010 they willhave over 500. This increase is because of the new G.I. bill. Anthony Alfidi reported that he has made application for appointment to the Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC). He will appear before the Rules

Committee on August 5th for appointment.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Comm. Raymond Wong reported thathe and Dara will attend the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention and that theyspent many hours going through the material in Veteran's Building room 205, selecting VFW items, that the prior American Legion War Memorial Commissionleadership had removed from lockers and had dumped altogether in a big pile onthe floor. On Aug. 3 the building will collect all items to he discarded.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE - Comm. Thompson reported that therewere 292 veteran job seekers and 20 employers in attendance at the 20th Annual Veterans Employment Committee EDD Job Fair at Fort Mason. The next Veterans Employment Committee meeting would be held on Aug. 12, at 401 3rdSt.

HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs reported on the plans forthe Veterans East Bay Stand Down, on Aug. 5 to 8. Four bus loads of San Franciscohomeless veterans will be brought

to the Stand Down.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Raymond Wong submitted copies for review of current state and federal bills that would effect veterans. TheState Legislature is in recess.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Caldera reported that hehad met with Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass pertaining to his formalcharges against the prior leadership of the American Legion District 8 and the American Legion War Memorial Commission, that they had not handled the groupsfinances in a proper manner. Since Wayne Snodgrass was not present he requested that this matter be tabled until the next

VETERANS PROJECTS - Comm. Levin reported on the War MemorialBoard of Trustees Memorial Court Veterans Memorial project. This is a 3 yearproject, with a goal of raising two and half million dollars. Comm. Noetzeldrafted three resolutions in support of this project. Comm. Levin reported that he had been appointed by General Myatt to the Working Committee, thus there would be no need for the second orthird resolutions. He thanked Comm. Noetzel for his work in putting the three resolutions together and that he especially appreciated the third resolution. The first resolution will be edited by Comm. Noetzel for approval at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Comm. Gibbs asked what the commission policyis on how long people can speak during Public Comments.

HONORS REPORT AND ADJOURNMENT - In memory of the 5,450+Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died inSan Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide during June andJuly.

Dara Wong, Commission Secretary



### September 13, 2010

Veterans' Affairs Commission - September 13, 2010

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

#### MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TOORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVALOF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVALOF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLICCOMMENTS Length of time given to speakers. Discussion and possible action.
- 7. REPORTS A. PRESIDENT -
  - B. VICE PRESIDENT -
- C. SECRETARY -
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS Using the Veterans Building as the Veterans Affairs Commission address, Discussion and possible action
  - E. EMPLOYMENT -
  - F. HEALTH & WELFARE -
  - G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION 9th United States Circuit Court of Appeals decision against the Stolen Valor Act. Discussion and possible action.
- NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS Comm.Caldera's formal charges against the prior leadership of American LegionDistrict 8 and the War Memorial Veterans Commission. Discussion and possibleaction.
- J. VETERANS PROJECTS Board of TrusteesMemorial Court Veterans Monument & Project Sign Discussion & possibleaction.
  - K.WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING American Legion War Memorial Commissions Veterans Service Organizations
- Veteran's Building Project. Discussion andpossible action.
- 8. OLDBUSINESS -9. NEWBUSINESS -
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,500+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that diedin San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in August,

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### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 MEETING 415-554-6036

President James Guglielmoni called the meeting to order a 6:10 P.M. & led the Pledge. Commissioners present: Anthony Alfidi, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong, and Raymond Wong. Commissioners Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, George Gibbs, Stephen Noetzel and Robert Varni were excused.

Also present were Margaret Champagne, Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Marco Marcella. Jeremy Laukhuf and Andrew Benton.

10 commissioners present, 6 excused and 1 not appointed.

Comm. Champagne moved approval of agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Caldera. Motion passed. Comm. Caldera moved approval of August minutes, 2nd by Comm. Thompson. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Marco Marchella, a Navy veteran who is interested in veterans affairs, like Fleet Week and the USS Iowa. He commended the commission for our support to these kind of events and projects. Roger Dong, Chairman of the American Legion War Memorial Commission. He reported on their plan to bring veterans service organizations into the Veterans Building, to help and give needed services to our returning war veterans. He reported that the War Memorial Trustees approved a plan presented by the Art Commission, to put an art gallery in the area where the veterans have had offices on the first floor for 78 years. Comm. Levin introduced two members of the Air Force Academy Band, Master Sgt. Jeremy Laukhuf, Music Director and TSgt. Andrew Benton, Tour Director. They were in the Bay Area setting up their first of November Tour. The band features classical and pop rock and they will present concerts all over the Bay Area during the first week in November.

A discussion followed on how much time speakers should be allowed to speak during Public Comments. Comm. Levin made a motion that speakers be allowed 5 minutes and that those with special reports should be allowed for 10 minutes for their presentation, with the President given the authority to give more time if needed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Champagne. Motion passed.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Comm. Guglielmoni welcomed newly appointed commissioner Anthony Alfidi to the commission. He reported that he attended the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Convention and that there are many changes planned within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The President spoke at the convention.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Comm. Raymond Wong reported that he and Dara attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Convention and that the Vice President spoke. They also visited the VFW National Home for Children in Grand Rapids, Mich. He is now on his way to attend his Destroyer USS Towers reunion, where he serves as President.

COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS – Comm. Levin recommended that now that the American Legion War Memorial Commission has stable leadership and their office is open every weekday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, that the commission should start using their office, at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101, Veterans Building, as the commissions address. President Guglielmoni agreed and that will now be our official address.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE - Comm. Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee EDD 2011 Job Fair, would be held at the University of Phoenix Campus. They are going to give their full support to the event.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION – Comm. Raymond Wong submitted copies of current state bills that would effect veterans, including a bill pertaining Stolen Valor. Comm. Levin made a motion that the commission support Stolen Valor legislation. 2nd by Comm. Alfidi, who will draft a letter in support of Stolen Valor legislation and it will be reviewed at the next commission meeting. Motion passed.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Caldera reported that he had met with Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass pertaining to his formal charges against the prior leadership of the American Legion District 8 and the American Legion War Memorial Commission, that they had not handled the groups finances in a proper manner. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Comm. Caldera and Alfidi, with evaluation by Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass, would draft a carefully worded letter on this subject for approval of the members of the commission.

VETERANS PROJECTS – Comm. Levin made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Champagne and Thompson to accept the draft resolution written by Comm. Noetzel, pertaining to the commission support of the War Memorial Board of Trustees Memorial Court Veterans Monument and project identification sign. Motion passed.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING – Comm. Levin made a motion to support the American Legion War Memorial Veterans Service Organizations Veterans Building Project. A plan to bring these groups into the Veterans Building, so that our returning veterans could receive these needed services. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Caldera. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS – Comm. Caldera would like to make an appointment with Supervisor Mirkarimi, to discuss the Veterans Building issues. Comm. Levin stated that this should be done by the entire commission and that the commission should take a more aggressive position on this subject. That we should give our support to the American Legion War Memorial Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, Nov.  $7^{\text{th}}$  and Fleet Week will be held from Oct. 8 to Oct. 11.

HONORS REPORT AND ADJOURNMENT – In memory of the 5,450+ Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide during August.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

### MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS -
- 7. REPORTS
  - A. PRESIDENT -
  - A. IKESIDENI -
  - B. VICE PRESIDENT C. SECRETARY -
  - D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS -
  - E. EMPLOYMENT -
  - F. HEALTH & WELFARE -
  - G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION Commission support for the Stolen Valor Act and legislation support. Discussion and possible action.
- 1. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS Comm. Caldera's formal charges against the prior leadership of American Legion District 8 and the War Memorial Veterans Commission. Discussion and possible action.
- J. VETERANS PROJECTS Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day Parade. K. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BLDG. - American Legion District 8<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, Green Room Event.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS -
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,550+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in September.

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### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapters 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact:

Frank Darby, Administrator Sunshine Ordinance Task Force 554-7724

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### DISABILITY ACCESS

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### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of October 4th, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson reported the next VEC/EDD 2011 planning meeting will be held:

University of Phoenix

1 Front Street San Francisco, CA 94111-5325 OCT 28 2010

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**HEALTH & WELFARE** 

Commissioner Cauley reported the Veterans Connect (Project Homeless Connect 36) event will be held Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 10:00AM-3:00PM, accepting donations, all <u>clients-veterans</u> must be <u>pre-registered</u>:

SEVAMO VA Downstown Clinic

401-3<sup>rd</sup> Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1214

#### WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Previous entry from Michael Williams, during public comments.

### NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

President Guglielmoni reported DAV \$ 5,000.00 wheelchairs donations, hearing impaired display. Commissioner Caldera reported various AL Post #315 activities.

#### HOMELESS VETERANS

Commissioner Gibbs reported 450 veterans were assisted at the East Bay Stand-down August 2010 event.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION
Commissioner R, Wong reported on the bills signed/chaptered by the Governor:

- AB 498 Vehicles: special interest license plates (Mary Hayashi ,Hayward; coauthored Ted Lieu, Torrance);
- supporting ex-POWs' option to purchase veterans' license plate instead, without fees
- AB 1088 Taxpayer contributions: California Veterans Fund (Nathan Fletcher, San Diego)
- AB 1729 Civil service examinations: veterans' preference (Mariko Yamada, Davis)
- AB 1757 Veterans cemetery (William Monning, Santa Cruz)
- AB 1829 Military decorations: fraud (Paul Cook, Yucaipa)
- AB 1908 Vehicles: specializes license plates: veterans organizations (Paul Cook, Yucaipa)
- SB 1057 State holidays: Veterans Day: state office closure (Jeff Denham, Merced)
- SB 1296 Peace officer training; traumatic brain injury; post-traumatic stress disorder (Lou Correa, Santa Ana)
   Commissioner R. Wong reported the following bills were vetoed:
  - innissioner R. Wong reported the following bills were ve
  - AB 1925 Veterans courts (Mary Salas, Chula Vista)
     AB 2784 Veterans (Paul Cook, Yucaipa; Mary Salas, Chula Vista) to increase size/oversight of California Veterans
    - Board

Commissioner Affidi drafted a letter about Michael Gerold's intent to defraud, for the district attorney office, accepting various commissioners' suggestions, further advice/review from Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass. A 2<sup>nd</sup> letter will be forthcorning.

Commissioner Affidi drafted resolution for the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support AB 1829 military decorations: fraud. Stolen Valor Act (federal version)

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Noetzel's letter to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The city-sponsored 2010 Veterans' Day parade application will be posted forthwith on the website, e-mail invitations ASAP. Miscellaneous corrections will be made.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

This month will be very busy, San Francisco will be welcoming

- . 2010 Fleet Week, chaired by Major General J. Michael Myatt (USMC Ret.) http://www.flectweek.us
- 142<sup>nd</sup> annual Italian Heritage festivities/parade <a href="http://www.sfcolumbusday.org/events/index.html">http://www.sfcolumbusday.org/events/index.html</a>
- 99th anniversary Republic of China (Taiwan) National Day events/parade

Roger Dong mentioned there will be a November 10th, 2010 ALWMC event, held at the Marines' Memorial Association.

Commissioner Varni announced he had resigned as aide to Secretary of the U.S. Army

#### HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in memory of the 5,710 Americans killed in Iraq (4,411) and Afghanistan (1,299), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of September.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM

### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

President Guglielmoni called the meeting to order at 6:04PM, a quorum being present. President Guglielmoni led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused	
James Guglielmoni	X			
Anthony Affidi	X			
Regalado Baldonado			×	
Jill Buck			×	
John Caldera	x			
Veronika Cauley	X			
Renie Champagne	×			
George Gibbs	×			
Chris Gruwell			×	
Wallace Levin			×	
Stephen Noetzel	×			
Michael Thompson	X			
Robert Varni	x			
Edwin Wilkerson	×			
Raymond Wong	×			
Dara Wong	x			

Twelve (12) commissioners present, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Margaret Champagne, Roger Dong, Beth Martinez, Michael Williams, were present.

Acceptance for approval of October  $4^{th}$ , 2010 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Caldera,  $2^{nd}$  by Commissioner Cauley. No abstention.

Acceptance for approval of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Caldera, no abstention.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

By invitation from Commissioner Gibbs, Beth Martinez (Possible Society of California, based in Albany
<a href="https://www.possiblesociety.org/">https://www.possiblesociety.org/</a> spoke about aqua chi, welcome warriors program (group hydro-therapy, warriw warriors program (group hydro-therapy), warriw warriors program (group hydro-therapy) arrived there were no proof of concepts. President Guglielmoni made suggestions (1) to find sponsors; (2) SFVAMC recreational therapists.

Michael Williams summarized his work with the War Memorial Veterans Building space requirements: Mayor's office of disabilities (money support, time);PCs for veterans' use; SBA for veterans' entrepreneurs; future tenants; needing commissioners' help for support letter, meeting at EDD October 7th, 2010 1:00-5:00PM.

Roger Dong, ALWMC chairman, reiterated Michael Williams' WMVB position for letter of support. President Guglielmoni suggested the commissioners may individually write a letter.

The following committee reports were submitted:

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report.

#### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Commissioner R. Wong reported recent USS Towers DDG-9 reunion held in Baltimore, Maryland in honor of four-star RADM John Henry Towers, U.S. Navy, Commander of the Pacific Fleet during World War II

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars http://www.bayfwca.org will be making a donation to SFVAMC NCIRE program http://www.ncircorg.this.Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036) GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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# MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 10/4/10.
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS -
- 7. REPORTS
- $\label{eq:A.PRESIDENT-Officer Nomination Committee.} \textbf{ Discussion and possible action.}$ 
  - **B. VICE PRESIDENT -**
  - C. SECRETARY -
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS Mayor Newsom's 311 portal for returning military veterans. Discussion and possible action.
  - E. EMPLOYMENT -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE Fort Miley VA Medical Center expansion roadblocks. Discussion and possible action.
  - G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION Commission support for the Stolen Valor Act and legislation support. Discussion and possible action.
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS Comm. Caldera's formal charges against the prior leadership of American Legion District 8 and the War Memorial Veterans Commission. Discussion and possible action.
- J. VETERANS PROJECTS Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. Veterans Day Parade. American Indian, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. Veterans Memorial Court Ceremony.
- K. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BLDG. American Legion District  $8^{th}$ , Nov.  $10^{th}$ , 7:30 p.m., Green Room Benefit Concert.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS Air Force Academy Band Bay Area tour, 10/31-11/6.
- 9. NEW BUSINESS Veterans Memorial Court, Nov. 10, 12 noon ceremony. 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,600+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in October.

### SPECIAL MEETING

The Nomination Committee will meet after the above meeting. The Agenda will be Evaluation of Candidates for 2011 and Public Comments. Discussion and possible action.

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Frank Darby, Administrator Sunshine Ordinance Task Force 554-7724

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### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of November 8th, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

President Guglielmoni called the meeting to order at 6:09PM, a quorum being present. President Guglielmoni led the Pledge of Allegiance.

	present	absent	excused
James Guglielmoni	Х		
Anthony Alfidi	X		
Regalado Baldonado			×
Jill Buck			x
John Caldera	×		
Veronika Cauley			×
Renie Champagne	×		
George Gibbs	X		
Chris Gruwell	×		
Wallace Levin	X		
Stephen Noetzel	х		
Michael Thompson	X		
Robert Varni	×		,
Edwin Wilkerson	×		
Raymond Wong	×		
Dara Wong	X		

**DOCUMENTS DEPT** 

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Thirteen (13) commissioners present, nine (9) commissioners required for quorum. Margaret Champagne, Roger Dong. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, were present.

Acceptance for approval of November 8th, 2010 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Wilkerson, no abstention.

Acceptance for approval of October 4th, 2010 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Levin, no abstention.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roger Dong, ALWMC chairman, summarized the current/future War Memorial Veterans Building space requirements, veterans service offices, negotiating with SFWMPAC Board of Trustees, bringing computers/furniture, EDD, Vet Center, etc. Into WMVB.

#### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee shall consist of the past commission's presidents (George Gibbs, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson). Commissioner Noetzel noted there will be nine (9) commission members term expiring January 31st, 2011, evaluating 3 slots, the board undecided, makeup of commission, depended upon Board of Supervisor, selecting commission candidate. Following discussion, and on Commissioner Guglielmoni motion to support the committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Levin, the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

The following committee reports were submitted:

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

South Florida philanthropist Lois Pope hosted the ground-breaking of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, which will be within view of the Capitol, on a 2.4 acre plot, across from the U.S. Botanic Garden, November 10th, 2010, after twenty (20) years \$ 83 million fundraiser, including the recent Diane Musselmann (http://www.advlm.org director) fundraising walk.

#### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Commissioner R. Wong reported that BART launched (available January 5th, 2010, announced by BART Board President James Fang) military pass program, allocated \$ 50,000.00 for active duty only http://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2010/in/ws/20100107.aspx

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner D. Wong circulated CDVA Operation Welcome Home http://www.cdva.ca.gov/nowhonic.aspx materials received from Sacramento, while attending CDVA-CSCVC October meeting.

### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of November 8th, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

#### EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson reported the next VEC/EDD May 12th, 2011 job fair will be held 10:00AM-2:00PM, needs help publicizing the event:

University of Phoenix 1 Front Street San Francisco, CA 94111-5325

#### **HEALTH & WELFARE**

President Guglielmoni updated the members regarding the San Francisco VAMC parking expansion roadblocks to accommodate 400 parking spaces: neighbors, planning commission, federal-state agencies (GGNRA, UCSF, NCIRE), commuters, museum visitors. Following discussion, and on Commissioner Levin's motion to support all veterans' services, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Wilkerson, the following resolution was unanimously adopted. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass advised to go ahead with letter of inquiry, to explore information to support resolution to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

#### HOMELESS VETERANS

Veterans Connect (Project Homeless Connect 36) event will be held Wednesday, November 10th, 2010 10:00AM-3:00PM, accepting donations, all clients-veterans must be pre-registered: SFVAMC VA Downtown Clinic

401-3rd Street San Francisco, CA 94107-1214

#### LEGISLATION EVALUATION

- Commissioner R. Wong reported on the bills signed/chaptered by the Governor, previously e-mailed:
  - AB 498 Vehicles: special interest license plates (Mary Hayashi ,Hayward; coauthored Ted Lieu, Torrance); supporting ex-POWs' option to purchase veterans' license plate instead, without fees
  - AB 1088 Taxpayer contributions: California Veterans Fund (Nathan Fletcher, San Diego)
  - AB 1729 Civil service examinations: veterans' preference (Mariko Yamada, Davis)

  - AB 1757 Veterans cemetery (William Monning, Santa Cruz)
  - AB 1829 Military decorations: fraud (Paul Cook, Yucaipa)
  - AB 1908 Vehicles: specializes license plates: veterans organizations (Paul Cook, Yucaipa)
  - SB 1057 State holidays: Veterans Day: state office closure (Jeff Denham, Merced) SB 1296 Peace officer training; traumatic brain injury; post-traumatic stress disorder (Lou Correa, Santa Ana)
- Commissioner R. Wong reported the following bills were vetoed:
  - AB 1925 Veterans courts (Mary Salas, Chula Vista)
  - AB 2784 Veterans (Paul Cook, Yucaipa; Mary Salas, Chula Vista) to increase size/oversight of California Veterans Board

Commissioner Alfidi presented two revised documents on the subject of the conduct of former AL leader Michael Gerold. The first document was a draft resolution that urged the City & County of San Francisco government to support enactment of strong federal and state Stolen Valor laws. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Caldera, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Noetzel, for a vote to adopt and forward the resolution as written. Motion passed unanimously and resolution (copy attached) will be forwarded to Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

A second document was also examined and discussed by the commission, namely Commissioner Alfidi's latest draft of a proposed letter from the Veterans Affairs Commission, detailing Michael Gerold's misconduct, with respect to his dealings with local veterans' organizations. After examination and some discussion, several suggested edits were offered. The item was then tabled for further revision and renewed motion for consideration at the next commission meeting.

#### NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

Commissioner Caldera's formal charges against the AL District #8 and ALWMC prior leadership dovetails into Commissioner Alfidi's previous discussion.

#### VETERANS PROJECTS

The Veterans' Day parade was held Sunday, November 7th, 2010 11:00AM.

DOCUMENTS DEPT

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### City & County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission minutes of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting (415) 554-6036

Commissioner Caldera announced the Ohlone Costanoan Carmel Tribe performed a cleansing ceremony, War Memorial Court complex, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 2:00PM, supported by AL Post #315, Veterans for Peace, AL District #8, actions approved by SYMMPAC Board of Trustees

#### WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Previous entry from Roger Dong, during public comments.

Commissioner(s) Caldera and Levin announced Rebecca Boyko event, featuring jazz samba/patriotic tunes, to benefit the AL District #8, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 7:30PM

#### OLD BUSINESS

U.S. Air Force Academy Band will be performing at various Bay Area counties venues from October 31st, 2010, through November 6th, 2010

#### NEW BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Guglielmoni announced there will be:

- Avenue of Flags ceremony, Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, November 11th, 2010 11:00AM
- Veterans Commons, 150 Otis Street groundbreaking, November 9th, 2010

Commissioner D. Wong reported there will be (invitation only):

San Francisco VAMC Veterans' Day ceremony, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 11:00AM (federal employees, VAVS volunteers)

Commissioner Levin announced the San Francisco Veterans Memorial press event, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 12:00PM noon, with the three (3) design finalists, the memorial to be formally dedicated in November 2013, ninety (90) years from the original 1920's vision of San Francisco War Memorial complex.

Commissioner Caldera reminded everyone of the Swords to Plowshares' dinner, Grand Hyatt, November 11th, 2010

#### HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in memory of the 5,798 Americans killed in Iraq (4,414) and Afghanistan (1,384), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of October.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32PM

#### **COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS**

Jason Elliott, Mayoral Aide, came in during the nominations committee meeting, Commissioner(s) Wong, had stayed to listen to Jason's <a href="https://www.stll.lorg">https://www.stll.lorg</a> portal presentation, to articulate what is available, which was deployed without consulting the commission for advice; using city employees to do veterans' outreach: crisis intervention, education, facebook, homelessness, housing, , PTSD, referral to federal/state, substance abuse, vocational services.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 101 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

Gavin Newsom, Mayor Office of the Mayor 1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102

Dec. 6, 2010

Dear Mayor Newsom:

The Veterans Affairs Commission's mandate is to advise the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors on issues and matters pertaining to veterans. There is no San Francisco veterans issue more important to veterans than the 1927 Trust Agreement that gave them the right of free use of space in the War Memorial Veterans Building. The building was built in honor of America's World War I Veterans and opened in 1932. The Trust gave the right to control the veterans space in the building to the American Legion. The War Memorial Trustees appointed by the Mayor can only deal with an organization made up of members of the San Francisco American Legion Posts. That organization is called the American Legion War Memorial Commission.

The Veterans Affairs Commission supports the American Legion War Memorial Commission's new concept of bringing veterans service organizations into the building. These organization will be in the building to actually help and give needed services to all veterans, especially those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Swords to Plowshares already has an office in the building and they are providing employment services to veterans and the Association For Service Disabled Veterans also has an office that helps disabled veterans start their own business. We now support the effort to bring the United Service Organization (USO) into the building to give help and support to active duty service members, their families and veterans.

America is a far different place than it was in 1932. With time things change and America has changed. The veterans use of the Veterans Building must also change to match the needs of our modern society.

Sincerely,

Jim Guglielmoni, President

c/c: Board of Supervisors
War Memorial Trustees
American Legion National Commander,
California State Commander, S. F. District 8
Commander and Commission Chairman.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010, 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ( EPT

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### MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 11/08/10.
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS -

### 7. REPORTS

- A. PRESIDENT Officer Nominations for 2011.
- **B. VICE PRESIDENT -**
- C. SECRETARY -
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS Mayor Newsom's 311 portal for returning military veterans. Discussion and possible action.
  - E. EMPLOYMENT -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE Fort Miley VA Medical Center expansion roadblocks. Discussion and possible action.
  - G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION Commission support for the Stolen Valor Act and legislation support. Discussion and possible action.
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS Commissions formal charges against the prior leadership of American Legion District 8 and American Legion War Memorial Commission. Discussion and possible action.
  - J. VETERANS PROJECTS Veterans Memorial Court Ceremony.
- K. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING Support for the American Legion War Memorial Commissions efforts to bring veteran's service organizations into the Veterans Building. Discussion & possible action.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS -
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,800+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in November.

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Frank Darby, Administrator

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Dec. 602910 MENT

President Guglielmoni called the meeting to order at 6:09pm, a quorum being present. President Guglielmoni led the Piedge of Allegiance. ΔPR 27 2011

Attendance - Roll Call
In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Gibbs, Gruwell, Guglielmoni, Levin, SAN FRANCISCO Noetzel, Thompson, Varni, D. Wong & R. Wong, (12) Absent: Commissioners Jill Buck. Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, Edwin Wilkerson. (all exputed to PARY

calendar conflict or health issues)

Attending Guests: Mr. Jason Eillott, Mr. Charles Reed & Mr. Michael Williams.

Acceptance for approval of December 6th 2010 Meeting Agenda. Motion to accept by Comm. Levin, 2nd Comm. R. Wong, In discussion Comm. Levin added minor corrections. Comm. Noetzel added a paragraph for insertion regarding Michael Gerold discussion. After some discussion Chair agreed to TABLE acceptance of 12/6/10 Meeting Minutes for re-submittal, with corrections, at next VAC meeting.

Acceptance for approval of November 8th 2010 Meeting MINUTES. Motion by Comm. Noetzel, 2nd Comm. Levin. Motion APPROVED without dissent.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jason Elliott, Mayoral Aide, presented the http://www.sf311.org 'Portal' presentation, to articulate what is available. It was deployed without consulting the VAC for advice; using city employees to do veterans' outreach; crisis intervention, education, face-book, homelessness, housing, PTSD, referral to federal/state, substance abuse, vocational services.

Mr. Charles Reed. (SVEC/EDD Chairman, retired SFVAMC employee in audiology/prosthetics), Michael Thompson's quest, reported about the May, 12, 2011 Veterans Job Fair & multiple veterans services offered. Also reported on the planned 12/9/10 event at St. Anthony's, which will offer employment assistance.

Mr. Michael Williams, (ALWMC) offered comments about the previous '311 Portal' presentation; War Memorial Veterans building update on Space Requirements and plans for a computerized training center in Room 219.

#### Presidents Report.

President Guglielmoni thanked the Commission members for cooperating with each other during the 2010 year. He does not wish to run for President again due to health/personal matters. He informs Commission that he is currently a 'CDC-17' patient for a fungus spore illness.

#### VICE Presidents Report.

Vice President Raymond Wong reported on the 12/4/10 Chinatown (VFW Post 4618) 65th Anniversary Dinner at the Four Seas Restaurant

#### Secretary's Report.

Secretary Dara Wong announced the Wreaths Across America event (http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.com ceremony, scheduled for December 12, 2010 at the Presidio. Assembly scheduled for 7:30am; event starts 9:00am. Some 1700 wreaths were donated. Participants to include: S.F. Police Dept., Fire Dept., Federal Park Police, Civil Air Patrol, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and various active duty members of the military. She also reported that the NEXT Wreaths Across America event has already been scheduled for December 10, 2011.

Comm. Wong also announced that ticket sales and fundraising to benefit the 2/17-18 Gold Star Parents events at the S.F. Marines Memorial Club were now on sale. Program brings together parents whose children were KIA while serving in US Armed Forces. Donations may be sent to: SGA - HONOR & REMEMBER, P.O. Box 1215, Discovery Bay, CA 94505.

#### Employment.

Comm. Thompson reported on the next VEC/EDD Job Fair, scheduled for May 12, 2011, from 10am to 2pm at the University of Phoenix. (at 1 Front Street, San Francisco, CA 94111). Employers should request participation via email. There will be 26 reserved parking spaces and EDD event leaders need volunteer help in marketing/publicizing the event

#### Health & Welfare

President Gugllelmoni updated the Commission on the SFVAMC parking expansion and roadblocks to accommodate 400 parking spaces, as well as a Planning Commission Neighborhood event involving GGNRA, UCSF, NCIRE, and other state/federal agencies, plus commuters, neighbors and museum visitors.

#### HOMELESS Veterans.

VETERANS CONNECT (Project Homeless Connect #36), event was held on 11/10/2010. at the SFVAMC VA Downtown Clinic at 401 3rd Street, S. F. CA

#### Legislative Evaluation.

Comm. R. Wong reported on relevant legislation in process including: AB 498 Vehicles. Special Interest License Plates (supports ex-POWs option for cost free plates) AB 1088 involves Taxpayer Contributions to CA Veterans Fund.
AB 1729 involves Veterans preferences @ Civil Service Exams.

AB 1757 involves the Veterans Cemetery

AB 1829 involves Fraud involving Military Decorations

AB 1908 involves Specialized License Plates for Military Organizations

AB 1057 involves State Office Closure on Veterans Day.
AB 1296 involves PTSD and Peace Officer Training.

The following bills were VETOED:

AB 1925 Veterans Courts

AB 2784 involving increase in size of CA Veterans Oversight Board.

Comm. Alffull then presented two revised documents on the subject of the conduct of former AL leader Michael Gerold. The first document was a draft Resolution that urged the City & County of San Francisco Government to support enactment of strong federal and state Stolen Valor laws. After discussion a Motion was made by Comm. Caldera (2", Comm. Noetzel), for a vote to adopt and forward the Resolution as written. Motion passed unanimously and Resolution will be forwarded to Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

A second document was also examined and discussed by the Commission; namely Commissioner Alfidi's latest DRAFT of a proposed letter from the VAC, detailing Michael Gerold's misconduct with respect to his dealings with local Veterans Organizations. After examination and some discussion, the item was tabled for further revision and a renewed Motion for consideration at the next VAC meeting.

#### National Veterans Groups.

Comm. Caldera reports on formal charges against AL District #8 and ALWMC prior leadership. This dovetails into Comm. Alfildi's pervious discussion.

#### Veterans Projects.

Comm. Levin reported on the 2010 Veteran's Day Parade, which was held on the 7th of November, 2010.

Comm. Caldera announced that the OHLONE NATION group performed a Cleansing Ceremony at the War Memorial Court on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, at 2:00pm. The event was supported by AL Post 315, Veterans for Peace, AL District #8. All actions were approved by the SF WMPAC Board of Trustees.

### War Memorial Veterans Building

See entry under Public Comments.

Commissioners Caldera and Levin reported on an event to benefit AL District #8 in the War Memorial Veterans Building on 11/10, 2010. The fund-raising event featured singer Rebecca Boyco and featured Jazz, Samba, and Patriotic music.

### Old Business

None

### New Business.

Comm. Caldera announced that the AL Dept. of Calif. Will be hosting the AL National Commander (Jimmie Foster) for a variety of events on Dec. 9-11, 2010.

#### Honors Report and Adjournment.

Meeting AJORNED (at 7:50pm) in memory of the 5,845 Americans Killed in Iraq (4,147) and Afghanistan (1,428); and the December Seventh National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Public Law 103-308), and the homeless veterans that died in S.F. and the veterans that died due to suicide during the month of November.

Note: Minutes approved, as amended above by unanimous vote during VAC General Meeting of April 4, 2011

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2011 6:00 P.M. 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING (415-554-6036)

### MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
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- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS -

### 7. REPORTS

- A. PRESIDENT -
- B. VICE PRESIDENT -
  - C. SECRETARY -

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2011**

- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS -
- E. EMPLOYMENT -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE -
- G. HOMELESS VETERANS -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION -
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- J. VETERANS PROJECTS Opera to produce "Heart of a Soldier in 2011.
- K. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING -
- 8. OLD BUSINESS -
- 9. NEW BUSINESS -
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,850+ Americans killed in Iraq /Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans who died because of suicide in December.

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Jan. 3, 2011

Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by VAC President James Guglielmoni @ 6:05pm.

#### Agenda item 2 - Pledge of Allegiance (Led by Comm. R. Wong)

Agenda item 3 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Gibbs, Gruwell, Guglielmoni, Levin, Noetzel, Thompson, Varni, Wilkerson, R. Wong, D. Wong (13)

Absent: Commissioners Champagne (excused, medical), Cauley, (excused, illness),

Attending Guests: Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. Roger Dong

#### Agenda item 4 - Approval of AGENDA

A previously distributed AGENDA was reviewed. MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (M-Wilkerson; 2nd-Caldera) passed without exception.

#### Agenda item 5 - Approval of Minutes of 11/8/10 and 12/6/10 VAC meetings.

A previously distributed copy of the Draft Minutes for the 11/8/10 meeting was reviewed. It was noted that some corrections voted on at the last meeting had not been incorporated. MOTION to table Acceptance of 11/8/10 Mtg. Minutes (M-Levin; 2nd-Noetzel) so that Secv Wong could correct, was passed without exception. Secretary Wong also announced that she had been unable to complete her Draft Minutes for the meeting of 12/6/10. President TABLED item for further action at the next VAC meeting.

#### Agenda item 6 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guest Roger Dong reserves his comments for presentation under Agenda Item K - War Memorial Veterans Building (see below). Comm. D. Wong reports on 1/3/11 letter received from Cheryl Cook, of the SF County Veterans Service Office. The letter includes new information on new service locations, hours and contact information for the SFVSO. Comm. Levin asks Sec'v Elect Noetzel to insure that all such information is incorporated into the VAC Website Pages.

#### Agenda item 7 - Reports

- A Presidents Report, Pres, Guglielmoni thanks Commission for support through the past year.
- B Vice Presidents Report, Comm. R. Wong, Same: "Commission heading in right direction".
- C Secretary's Report, Comm. D. Wong reports on Wreaths across America @ GG Natl. Rec. area, as well as Fundraising for Gold Star Families on 2/18 @ Marines Memorial bldg.

#### Election of Officers for 2011

Comm. Guglielmoni reviews nominations already made, and opens floor for new nominations. With no additional nominations, a vote is called for, Individual ballots are distributed, completed, collected, then tabulated by quest Charles Reed and Comm. Levin. After tabulation Mr. Reed announces public vote results as follows

### For PRESIDENT:

Commissioner VARNI received a total of 10 (ten) votes:

(Alfidi, Baldonado, Gruwell, Guglielmoni, Levin, Thompson, Varni, Wilkerson, R. Wong, D. Wong)

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Commissioner CALDERA received a total of 3 (three) votes:

(Caldera, Gibbs, Noetzel).

SANFRALLISON Commissioner Robert Varni was installed the new President of the VAC for the 2011 term of office. ARV

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### For Vice President:

Commissioner Ray Wong received a total of 12 votes:

(Alfidi, Caldera, Gibbs, Gruwell, Guglielmoni, Levin, Noetzel, Thompson, Varni, Wilkerson, R. Wong, D. Wong),

Commissioner Ray Wong was installed as Vice-President of the VAC for the 2011 term of office.

#### For Secretary:

Commissioner Stephen Noetzel received a total of 12 votes:

(Alfidi, Caldera, Gibbs, Gruwell, Guglielmoni, Levin, Noetzel, Thompson, Varni, Wilkerson, R. Wong, D. Wong).

Commissioner Stephen Noetzel was installed as the new Secretary of the VAC for the 2011 term of office. After announcements of election results, new officers were congratulated and the gavel was passed to the new Commission President, Robert Varni who presided over the balance of the meeting.

### Agenda item D - Commission Goals and Plans

President Varni spoke of his vision for Goals and Plans of the VAC in the next year. He described his goal is to help our 'next generation' veterans become 'America's SECOND GREATEST GENERATION'. He requests that everyone come to next meeting with their own ideas for Commission projects in the next year. He suggests we investigate the status of 'Veterans Preference' in both public and private hiring practice, as well as what the Commission can do to maximize participation in educational benefits of the new GI Bill, Pres, Varni leads discussion on re-appointment of 9

Commissioners whose appointment ends on 1/31/10. Further discussion on recruitment efforts to fill the two currently opened seats with at least one female vet and preferably with YOUNG vets. Comm. Noetzel speaks of his contacts at SFSU and Chair appoints him to make contact there for recruitment of potential young vets for appointment to the VAC. Comm. Levin suggests establishment of an Advisory Committee (to the VAC), consisting of non-veteran experts who might help us in developing effective projects. Also some discussion on the potential of maximizing discounts (BART and other transport) for struggling student veterans. Pres. Varni displays a copy of the new VA magazine: 'Vanguard'. It has a variety of articles that might be helpful to the VAC. He asks Sec'y. Noetzel to arrange for mailing of the publication to all VAC Commissioners.

#### Agenda item E - Employment

Comm. Thompson reports on Planned Job Fair run by Univ. of Phoenix. Event will include 121 perspective employers and should garner significant employment opportunities for Bay Area veterans.

Agenda item F - Health and Welfare (no report at this meeting)

#### Agenda item G - Homeless Veterans

Comm. Gibbs comments on VA Sec'y Shinsecki's pledge to eliminate veterans homelessness within 5 years, pointing out that providing shelter or a home for many homeless yets is only one of many steps needed for rehabilitation.

#### Agenda item H - Legislation Evaluation

Comm. R. Wong reviews highlights of page-long synopsis of current Vet-related legislation at State and Federal legislatures. He also notes that Rules and Qualifications for acquisition of 'Gold Star' vehicle license plates are available at the Calif. DMV website. Comm. Guglielmon' reports on SB 3447, the new GI Bill for Education benefits.

#### Agenda item I - National Veterans Groups

Comm. Guglielmoni reports that early months of year are when National Vets Groups meet to review and expand their plans and goals for legislative actions to benefit veterans and the veterans community. He urges VAC Commissioners to participate in the drafting of such legislation by attending the Planning Sessions of various VSOs (Amer. Legion, DAV, VFW, etc.)

#### Agenda item J - Veterans Projects:

Comm. Alfidi reports on his project to work with the S.F. Opera regarding their 2011 production of the World Première of a new Opera: HEART OF A SOLDIER, in the fall. The new work tells the story of Rick Rescorla, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran who died in heroic rescue work during the tragic events of 9/11 at the World Trade Center. Comm. Alfidi is working with Ms. L'Ann Bingham of SF Opera Productions to develop ways to maximize participation by the Veterans Community in SF. Comm. Levin moves to announce the full support of the VAC robt the production of the Opera, and all events developed by this Committee for SF Veterans and their families. (2<sup>nd</sup> – Guglielmoni); passed unanimously.

#### Agenda item K - War Memorial Veterans Building

Guest Roger Dong, President of the War Memorial Commission (WMC) addresses the VAC on progress by the WMC in recruiting additional Veterans Service Organizations and other appropriate Patrottic Organizations (such as the USO) to commit to establishing offices and Vets Services in the War Memorial Building. Comm. Levin submits copies of two letters he recently sent to the City of SF Administration, expressing VAC support in this endeavor and urging full support by the SF Government.

#### Agenda Item 8 - Old Business

Comm. Noetzel inquired as to the status of the Letter to City Administration regarding Request for Investigation of actions of former American Legion leader Michael Gerold. Sending of the letter was tabled last month, pending approval of final text by City. Comm. Guglielmoni and Comm. Alfidi (author of the letter) explained that final text approval was indeed received from City Attorney Snodgrass and original Letters were hand delivered to the Mayor, and all Supervisors, on the 15° of December. Copies were also mailed to local, state and National American Legion Commanders. Comm. D. Wong says she will insure that all Commissioners receive a copy of the letter. To facilitate communication between Commissioners, Comm. Levin distributes copies of updated list of full contact information for all current Commission members. He also describes his progress in facilitating mailing of VAC correspondence through City of San Francisco overnment offices.

#### Agenda Item 9 - New Business

No new business was offered at this time.

### Agenda Item 10 - Announcements

Comm. Thompson announces that the Order of the Purple Heart Assoc. is seeking Iraq & Afghan vets to take to lunch under their hospitality program.

#### Agenda Item 11 - Honors Report & Adjournment.

Meeting ADJOURNED after moment of silence in memory of the 5,850+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, as well as homeless and/or suicide deaths of San Francisco Veterans.

This DRAFT of the 1/3/11 VAC Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted for comment and edit suggestions, by Stephen S. Noetzel, Secretary, VAC, on 1/5/11.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Jan 3/12015 DEPT

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Absent: Commissioners Champagne (excused, medical), Cauley, (excused, illness).

Attending Guests: Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. Roger Dong

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Commissioner CALDERA received a total of 3 (three) votes; (Caldera, Gibbs, Noetzel).

Commissioner Robert Varni was installed the new President of the VAC for the 2011 term of office.

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Commissioner Ray Wong received a total of 12 votes:

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Guest Roger Dong, President of the War Memorial Commission (WMC) addresses the VAC on progress by the WMC in recruiting additional Veterans Service Organizations and other appropriate Patriotic Organizations (such as the USO) to commit to establishing offices and Vets Services in the War Memorial Building. Comm. Levin submits copies of two letters he recently sent to the City of SF Administration, expressing VAC support in this endeavor and urging full support by the SF Government.

#### Agenda Item 8 - Old Business

Comm. Noetzel inquired as to the status of the Letter to City Administration regarding Request for Investigation of actions of former American Legion leader Michael Gerold. Sending of the letter was table last month, pending approval of final text by City. Comm. Guglielmoni and Comm. Alfidi (author of the letter) explained that final text approval was indeed received from City Attorney Snodgrass and original Letters were hand delivered to the Mayor, and all Supervisors, on the 15" of December. Copies were also mailed to local, state and National American Legion Commanders. Comm. D. Wong says she will insure that all Commissioners receive a copy of the letter. To facilitate communication between Commissioners, Comm. Levin distributes copies of updated list of full contact information for all current Commission members. He also describes his progress in facilitating mailing of VAC correspondence through City of San Francisco government offices.

### Agenda Item 9 - New Business

No new business was offered at this time.

#### Agenda Item 10 - Announcements

Comm. Thompson announces that the Order of the Purple Heart Assoc. is seeking Iraq & Afghan vets to take to lunch under their hospitality program.

#### Agenda Item 11 - Honors Report & Adjournment.

Meeting ADJOURNED after moment of silence in memory of the 5,850+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, as well as homeless and/or suicide deaths of San Francisco Veterans.

Minutes of the 1/3/11 VAC Meeting (as written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel) were approved without dissent at the VAC meeting of 2/7/11.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104 RNMEN

## Monday, FEBRUARY 7, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEST JAN 26 11

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

SAN FRANCISCO

- 2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- 3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for changes and/or Approval
- REVIEW of Previous Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval Note: Comm. D. Wong to present corrected Minutes for Meetings of Nov. 8, 2010 and Dec. 6, 2010. Comm. Noetzel to present DRAFT Minutes for meeting of Jan. 3, 2011
- Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for general comments by quests).
- 6. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report; General comments; President VARNI (Including introduction of the PRIMARY MEETING ITEM, as detailed below, Agenda item 8H.)
  - A. Vice President's Report; General comments; Vice President R. WONG
  - B. Secretary's Report: General comments: Secretary NOETZEL (Reports on proceedings of the 1/13/11 SFSU event: 'Every Day is Veteran's Day at the CSU', including RECRUITMENT FLYER for student veterans at S.F. colleges/universities)
- 7. REVIEW of ANNUAL REPORT for changes and/or Approval
- 8. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES
  - A. Veterans Employment (Comm. THOMPSON, lead)
    - B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE (Comm. NOETZEL to report on development progress on project to establish City of S.F. Registry of Veterans at risk for Depleted Uranium Munitions Poisoning).
    - C. HOMELESS Veterans
    - D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION (Comm. R. WONG lead. Also, Comm. NOETZEL to introduce proposed RESOLUTION in support of HR Bill #210, titled: Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011
    - E. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS
    - F. VETERANS PROJECTS
    - G. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
    - H. COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS: President VARNI takes lead in major 'Open Forum' discussion on topic: WHAT SHALL BE THE VAC BUSINESS PLAN, for 2011? Participation by all Commissioners, guests, encouraged.
- 9. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Review of status of Applications for Re-Appointment to VAC by the NINE (9) Commissioners whose Commission Term expires at end of this month.
    - Review of status of HEART OF A SOLDIER Opera Project (Comm. Alfidi, Lead)

  - C. Review of status of inquiry into VETERANS PREFERENCE RULES in Government Service hiring.

    D. Review of distribution of letters to new Mayor and Supervisors Re: Request for Investigation of actions of former American Legion leader Michael Gerold.

#### 10.NEW BUSINESS:

- 11. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of the 5,860+ Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 12. ADJORNMENT



# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Feb. 7, 2011

Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by VAC President Robert VARNI at 6:10pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, led by Comm. R. WONG.

#### Agenda item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Gibbs, Levin, Noetzel, Thompson, Varni, Wilkerson, R. Wong, D. Wong (11)

Absent: Commissioners R. Champagne (excused, medical), V. Cauley, (excused, medical), J. Guglielmoni (excused, calendar conflict) Gruwell (un-notified).

Attending Guests: Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. James Small. Also in attendance; Mr. Wayne Snodgrass, office of the City Attorney.

#### Agenda item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

A previously distributed AGENDA was reviewed. MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (M-Levin; 2nd-Alfidi) passed without exception.

Agenda item 4 - Approval of Minutes of 11/8/10, 12/6/10 and 1/3/11 VAC meetings.

Past-Secretary Dara Wong announced that she had completed her corrections to the 11/8/10 meeting and Emailed them to Commissioners earlier in the day. She also said that she has still been unable to complete her Corrected Minutes for the meeting of 12/6/10. President Varni TABLED these items for further action at the next VAC meeting. A previously distributed copy of the Draft Minutes (by Comm. S. Noetzel) for the January 3, 2011 meeting was reviewed. MOTION to accept Minutes as written (M-Levin; 2\*\*-Alfidi) passed without exception.

### Agenda item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comm. Noetzel introduced his guest to the meeting, MR. JAMES SMALL, a recent veteran and current student at City College. Mr. Small spent two tours of duty in combat zones of iraq as a tank crewman and on Humwee Patrols. He plans to enter Law School in the near future. Mr. SMALL then addressed the Commission and expressed his interest in the group and its work. He said he is deeply interested in working for veteran's rights and benefits and stated that he is currently considering submitting his application for a seat on the Commission. Mr. Small then greets the group to affirm his interest.

#### Agenda item 6 - Officers Reports

- A Presidents Report, Pres. VARNI deferred his report until Agenda Item #8H; Commission Goals and Plans (below).
  B Vice Presidents Report, Comm. R. Wong. Reports on Jan. 29 VFW sponsored picnic for residents of Community Living Center @ Ft. Milev.
- C Secretary's Report, Comm. S. Noetzel deferred his report until Agenda Item 7, 8F, and 9 (See below).

Agenda Item 7 - Review of ANNUAL REPORT. Comm. Noetzel distributes copies of DRAFT #2 of the VAC ANNUAL REPORT for 2010. He explains that DRAFT #2 includes the addition of a section that highlights individual effort on behalf of veterans done by members of the Commission during 2010. Commissioners Caldera and D. Wong expresses concerns and displeasure with the citation of individual names for special honor in the Report. Secretary Noetzel asks if it his eense of the Commission that the INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS section should be deleted. Comm. LEVIN suggests that inclusion of such efforts are important to the overall work of the Commission, and perhaps a compromise might be to Include the individual ACTIVITES, while omitting specific names, and offers this idea as a MOTION. (2° by Comm. D. Wong). Motion passed without dissent. Secretary Noetzel will prepare DRAFT #3 to include mandated edit) for final vote of approval at the March VAC meeting.

A discussion then ensued on the subject of the ATTENDANCE GRID (included on the Annual Report), and the fact that Commissioner Cauley has missed more than half of the meetings during 2010 resident Varni asked what provisions there are in the VAC Bylaws with regard to censure due to poor attendance, and specifically what action can be taken to address the poor attendance of the Commissioner. After discussion of Bylaws provisions that require notification to the Mayor in the event that a Commissioner misses (at least) three consecutive meetings, President Varni asks Secretary Noetzel to prepare correspondence to Comm. Cauley with regard to this problem. Secretary Noetzel agrees to prepare a DRAFT of such a letter for edit and promulgation by the President.

Agenda Item 8 - REPORTS on Ongoing Issues:

A. Veterans EMPLOYMENT. (no report at this meeting)

B. Veterans Health and Welfare (no report at this meeting)

C. Homeless Veterans (no report at this meeting)

DOCUMENTS DEPT

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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY D. Veterans related LEGISLATION, Comm. R. Wong reviews excerpts of the proposed new State Budget and its implications for severe cuts to Veterans programs including cuts to County Veterans Service Offices, as well as elimination of the recently initiated veterans "Welcome Home" program. During discussion Comm. Levin suggests Agenda Item for next VFP meeting: Letter of support for full funding for City Veterans Service office.

In addition, President Varni asks Sec'y Noetzel to invite Cheryl Cook (County Veterans Service Officer) to the March VFP meeting to speak on funding provisions of the County Veterans Service Offices., and other issues within her purview.

- Comm. Wong also reviewed elements of Calif. Assembly Bill #201 (introduced by Assemblyman Butler) which proposes the establishments of Veterans Courts in California Counties.
- E. National Veterans Groups: (no report at this meeting)
- F. Veterans Projects: Comm. Noetzel distributes copies of his DRAFT RESOLUTION urging VFP support for Federal Legislation (HR 210), the FILIPINO VETERANS FAIRNESS ACT, recently introduced by Rep. Jackie Speier of San Mateo. Commissioners were asked to review the DRAFT and offer suggested changes in preparation for a vote of approval at the March VAC meeting.
- G. War Memorial Veterans Building: Comm. Levin reports on status of ongoing negotiations between the Veterans War Memorial Commission (VWMC), and the Veterans War Memorial Building Board of Trustees, regarding space allocation and use of the building after the scheduled building retroft. Commissioners Levin and AlfIdI both speak regarding their disappointment with Internal disputes within the VWMC indicating the 'internal' squabbles continue to be a major impediment to submittal of a cohesive long-term VETERANS USAGE PLAN for the building.
- H. Commission GOALS AND PLANS President Varni opened discussion with a repeat of his Primary Question: What shall be the BUSINESS of the VAC, in 2011? (or) What PROJECTS shall the VAC accomplish, on behalf of Veterans, this year? Comm. Levin opened discussion by distributing copies of recent newspaper articles documenting the LASTING EFFECT of the high UNEMPLOYMENT RATE during the current recession. He proposed that we would do well to develop some projects regarding JOB DEVELOPMENT for unemployed veterans. Comm. Noetzel then introduced his suggestion for an EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM wherein we develop a LETTER (from the VAC) addressed directly to the Human Resources Directors of the Top 50 Employers in the City of San Francisco. This project would include substantial RESEARCH and FOLLOW-UP with each firm, in an effort to get them to commit to a PUBLISHED CORPORATE PLAN with respect to their COMMITMENT TO HIRE VETERANS during their next fiscal year. The idea would be for each volunteering Commissioner to take responsibility for Research, Contact and Follow-up of three or four specific Corporations, and continue unrelenting follow-up. including phone calls and possibly personal visitation to Corporate offices, in an effort to gain specific Corporate Veterans Hiring Commitments and Policies. After considerable discussion President Varni appointed Commissioner Noetzel to take the lead on development of such a project, and asked for volunteers to work in consultation with Sec'v Noetzel on the project. Commissioners ALFIDI and WILKERSON then volunteered to participate. President Varni then asked if anyone was aware of the current status of State or Federal laws requiring private companies, or public agencies to (either) RETAIN jobs for employees who leave to go on active military duty, or (in the case of public agencies) provide hiring preference 'points' for job applicants who are vets, and for vendors owned and run by veterans. After considerable discussion it was generally agreed that significant research was required in this area.

#### Agenda Item 9 - Old Business

Comm. Alfidi reports on his project to work with the S.F. Opera regarding the 2011 World Première of the Opera: HEART OF A SOLDIER, Comm. Noetzel inquired as to the status of the Letter to City Administration regarding Request for Investigation of actions of former American Legion leader Michael Gerold. He asked if the authorized letter was also sent to the NEW S.F. mayor and new Supervisors. Commissioner D. WONG assured the Commission that such letters have indeed been sent. There was further discussion about the possibility of sending a letter (on the subject) directly to the new S.F. District Attorney Gascone. President Varni will follow up. Comm. Levin announces that the American Legion (internal) trial' regarding charges against Mr. Michael Gerold is now scheduled for 9 am on Thursday, the 10° of February.

#### Agenda Item 10 - New Business

Comm. Levin suggests formation of an Advisory Committee of non-Commissioners who are interested in working on the Projects of the Commission. Comm. Noetzel distributes copies of recruitment flyers for VAC applicants.

Agenda Item 11 — Announcements Comm. Caldera distributes copies of flyers for the 21st Annual JOB FAIR (hosted by the San Francisco Veterans Employment Committee), is scheduled for the 11st of May, 2011.

Comm. Wilkerson reports on a successful JOINT VISIT made by himself and President Varni, with the DIRECTOR of the Ft. Milev VA facility.

#### Agenda Item 12 - Honors Report & Adjournment,

Meeting ADJOURNED after moment of silence in memory of the 5,900+ American forces killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, plus an unknown number of homeless and/or suicide deaths of San Francisco Veterans.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue. Room 104 MENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

Monday, MARCH 7, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

MAR - 2 2011

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

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REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval
 REVIEW of Previous Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval
 Note: Review of Comm. D. Wong's corrected Minutes for Meetings of Nov. 8, 2010 and Dec. 6, 2010.
 Secretary Noetzel to present DRAFT Minutes for meeting of Feb. 7, 2011.

- 5. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).
  - A. President Varni will introduce his guest, Mr. Philip Stage, Program Support Manager, Army Reserve Employee Relations. Mr. Stage will report on his experience and suggestions for development of employment opportunities for veterans.
  - B. Comm. Levin will introduce Ms. Cheryl Cook, Asst. County Veterans Service Officer and Program Supervisor at the San Francisco County Veterans Office. Ms. Cook will report on the impact of proposed State budget CUTS to critical County Veterans Service Office programs.
- 6. Officers REPORTS:

  - A. President's Report; President Varni B. Vice President's Report; VP R. Wong
  - C. Secretary's Report; Secretary Noetzel
- 7. REVIEW and approval of mandated corrections to 2010 ANNUAL REPORT.
- REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:
  - A. Veterans Employment, Comm. THOMPSON (Lead)
    - B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.
  - C. HOMELESS Veterans, Comm.
  - D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Comm. R. WONG lead. Also. Comm. NOETZEL to seek vote of approval for his proposed RESOLUTION in support of HR Bill #210, titled: Filipino Veterans Fairness
  - E. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS. Comm. ALFIDI to report on the 2/10/11 American Legion internal TRIAL of former A.L. District 8 Commander Michael Gerold, and the impact and implications of his conviction and expulsion from the Legion. Discussion to include possible further VAC action.
  - F. VETERANS PROJECTS. Comm. NOETZEL, (Lead), to report on development progress on project to contact Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.

  - G. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING, Comm. Levin (Lead)
- 8. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Review of status of Applications for Re-Appointment to VAC by the NINE (9) Commissioners whose Commission Terms expired on 1/31/11, Comm, Noetzel to report on negotiations with Bd. Of Supervisors Rules Committee Chair, and Mayor's Director of Commissions and Appointments with respect to new appointment procedures & policies.
  - B. Comm. Alfidi, (Lead) to review of status of HEART OF A SOLDIER Opera Project
  - C. Review of status of inquiry into VETERANS PREFERENCE RULES in Government Service hiring.
- 10. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- 11. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- ADJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify at least one of the following contacts prior to meeting:

Robert Varni, President, at email robtvarni@aol.com or telephone: 415-397-3599, or Stephen Noetzel, Secretary, at email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214 This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

### PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public records are covered under that State of California Brown Act, as well that the SUNSHINE ORDINANCE of the City of San Francisco. The 'Sunshine Act' assures that deliberations of City Business are conducted "before the people", and that City operations are open to the people's review.

For information on your rights under the Sunshine ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Mr. Chris RUSTON, Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at telephone # 415-554-7724.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5th Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

### DISABILITY ACCESS

The War Memorial Veterans Building (between Grove & McAllister Streets) is wheelchair accessible via front entrance (401 Van Ness). There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 7, 2011

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

After waiting a bit to achieve a (nine member) Quorum, the meeting was called to order by VAC President Robert VARNI at 6:15pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, led by the President.

Agenda Item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Gibbs, Levin, Noetzel, Thompson,\* Varni. Wilkerson. (9)

Absent: Commissioners R. Wong and D. Wong (excused, calendar conflict), V. Cauley, J. Guglielmoni, C. Gruwell. (ALL 3, un-notified). NOTE: Total of FIVE Sitting Commissioners Absent; plus one regently REFIREDY: (Comm. Reni Champagne).

Attending Guests: Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. Roger Dong, Mr. James Small, Mr. Eduardo Ramirez Cand S DEPT (scheduled) Guest Speakers, Ms. Cheryl Cook, and Mr. Richard P. Stage

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

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A previously distributed AGENDA was reviewed. MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (M. Levin; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Alfidi) passed without exception.

SAN FRANCISCO

Agenda Item 4 — Approval of Minutes of 11/8/10, 12/6/10 and 27/11 VAC meetings, PUBLIC LIBRARY Past-Secretary Dara Wong had provided notice that she would be absent for this meeting, in an effort to finally resolve outstanding issues for Minutes of previous meetings, Sec'y. Noetzel distributes copies of Minutes VAC meeting of November 8, 2010. This DRAFT includes corrections that were mandated at earlier meetings and never accomplished. After some discussion Comm. LEVIN makes MOTION (2" Comm. Caldera to APPROVE the 11/8/10 Minutes with one final correction (i.e. Comm. Caldera correction re: 'Ohlone Nation'). Motion is passed without exception. November 2010 Minutes are Official. At this point the still unresolved Minutes for the December 6, 2010 meeting were taken up. Past Sec'y Dara Wong could not submit the Minutes for review (as she was absent), so the Matter of the December 2010 Minutes was once again tabled for action at the next VAC meeting, at this point a previously distributed copy of the Draft Minutes (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) for the February 7, 2011 meeting was reviewed. Comm. Caldera offered two minor corrections to the Draft and after noting corrections for incorporation into a final version, Comm. Levin offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as amended (2"-Caldera). The Motion passed without exception and the Minutes for the VAC Meeting of 27/fil are approved.

#### Agenda item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comm. Noetzel once again introduced his guest to the meeting, MR. JAMES SMALL, a recent veteran and current student at city College, Mr. Small is interested in serving on this Commission, and is currently seeking a Mayoral Appointment. Comm. Levin Introduced his guest, MR. EDUARDO RAMIREZ, a USAF career veteran who now works at the VA facility of Et. Miley. Mr. Ramirez then commented on his background and also expressed his Interest in serving on the Commission. He stated that his 22-year USAF career took him to many places worldwide, including the first Gulf War. After retirement he worked at the Dept. of Labor, and for the past 2 years at Ft. Miley VA Medical Center where has recently been appointed as the Minority Veterans Program Coordinator.

Comm. Levin then introduced our first 'Agenda Scheduled' guest, Ms. CHERYL COOK, Program Supervisor at the County Veterans Service Office (CVSD). Ms. Cook provided background and update information on the services and facilities of the County Veterans Service Office. She spoke of the family assistance services of her office to County Jail Immates at the new 'veterans Service Office on that campus. She also spoke of the CVSD presence at San Francisco State University and of their new outreach office at Ft. Miley. Ms. Cook explained her initiative to preserve funding for her offices on the basis of its cost-saving aspects. That is, every veteran they guide to a Federal or State program represents one less individual burden on City public assistance programs. She asked for support (from the VAC) to advocate for retention of funding for CVSD programs when new budgets are developed. At the close of her 15-minute presentation, Comm. Levin suggests an initiative for further support of CVSD programs and funding. He requests an AGENDA Item to that effect, be Included for the April VAC meeting.

President Varni then introduces our second 'Agenda Scheduled' guest, MR. RICHARD (Phil) STAGE, Northern CA Manager of the MPSC (Milltary Personnel Services Corporation) and an adjunct organization, the ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve). Mr. Stage explained his dual role as a DOD Contractor, working with the MPSC and its Armed Forces Employer Partnership program, (a service that connects veterans and reservists seeking jobs with potential employers), and as a representative for ESGR (essentiality an ombudsman service dedicated to resolution of issues with respect to employment of veterans and reservists). Mr. Sage stated that unemployment rate for Armed Forces Reservists is now at 18% and smillir for veterans. He is holding over 500 Résumé's from Reservists and veterans seeking career oriented jobs from his list of some 30,000 potential employers in his (northern CA) Region. He states that he has a high success rate in 'signifique' employers in rural and suburban areas, (partnering with some 1400 employers, to date), but little success in San Francisco and other urban areas, with employers like: City of S.F.; Police Dept., Fire Dept., Sheriff's office and other Human Resources Departments of the 600 major employers in S.F., despite the fact that the (Federal) Uniformed Services Employment Rights Act, (USERA) mandates opportunity for re-hiring when a veteran or reservist returns from a tour of active duty, and despite the fact that there is no fee for use of their Website search engine (at www.employerpartnership.org) to match employers w/ job seekers. At the end of his 20-minute presentation, Comm. Levin asked how the VAC could participate and assist in fostering better participation from

City agencies and employers. He suggested, for example, that Mr. Stage might contact Greg Corrales (Captain of the Mission Police Station and also a veteran and active member of the American Legion. Finally, President Varni suggested further continuing coordination (between the enterprises of Mr. Stage and the VAC), in the overall effort to find jobs for San Francisco veterans.

President Varni then introduced guest Roger Dong who announced a recent breakthrough with the War Memorial Building Board of Trustees with regard to opening (for the first time) office space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (specifically, Room 336) for potential use as a VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER, for workshop opportunities and services (by Veterans Service Organizations, like the CVSO). Mr. Dong and members of the War Memorial Building Commission have also acquired commitments for donated furniture, computers and other resources to facilitate development of new veterans facilities on the Third floor.

#### Agenda item 6 - Officers Reports

- B Vice Presidents Report. Comm. R. Wong absent (see above).
- C Secretary's Report, Comm. S. Noetzel deferred his report until Agenda Items 7 and 8.
- A Presidents Report. President Varni read a recent Email from Commissioner Reni Champagne, announcing that due to ongoing health issues, he will unfortunately NOT be seeking re-appointment to the VAC. He, and others expressed great appreciation for the many years of outstanding service to the Commission by Commissioner Champagne.

President Varni then introduced and read a SECOND email he has recently received, this one from the San Francisco Republican Assembly. Key points covered in his reading of the lengthy Email are as follows:

In early March, the San Francisco Republican Assembly (SFRA) sent out invitations for its 3/23 dinner. The Dinner Program Included presentation of an AWARD and CONTRIBUTION to America Legion Post 911, as the 2010 Outstanding Post for its service to returning veterans. Shortly thereafter the SFRA received an email from the War Memorial Commission stating that Post 911 and members of its leadership faced various charges and therefore the S.F. Republican Assembly should RECONSIDER said award and contribution. In response the SFRA requested an official document delineating all such charges, and the Commission members who approved them. To date, SFRA has received only a reprint of an original email on Commission Letterhead. Therefore the Republican Assembly has contacted the Judge Advocate of Post 911 (Col. William D. Hyde, Ret.) for an immediate report on the background of these charges.

Pres. Varni said there were additional attachments to the email, however his primary question was how was it possible that anyone on the VAC was sending out information on Commission Letterhead, with regard to this issue.

At this point (approximately 7:35pm) Commissioner Thompson left the meeting as previously announced.

Comm. AlfIdi responded to President Varni's question, stating that the reference might be to Commissioner AlfIdi's email, sent to the SFRA (as part of a series of emails on the subject by himself, Nelson Lum and John Forette on the subject). Comm. AlfIdi stated that the 'letterhead document' referenced was likely a copy of the official VAC letter, hand delivered on 12/15/10 (by past Sec'y Dara Wong) to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, wherein the VAC expressed our concern with regard to specific allegations of fraud and misconduct by former Post 911 Commander Michael Gerold, and requesting an official investigation of such charges.

Guest Roger Dong then volunteered that the War Memorial Commission ALSO was in communication with the SF Republican Assembly on this issue, and it may be unclear exactly what correspondence the SFRA email was referring to.

At this point Comm. Alfidi requested a copy of the subject email from SFRA, and requested further discussion on the matter when Agenda item 8E was taken up.

Agenda item 7 - Review of Mandated Corrections to 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Comm. Noetzel distributes copies of DRAFT #3 of the VAC ANNUAL REPORT for 2010. He explains that this (latest) DRAFT of the REPORT, includes corrections, as mandated by vote in the VAC meeting of 27/71; to wit: the deletion of specific NAMES of Commissioners who participated (individually) in projects and events beneficial to veterans during the past year, while still RETAINING descriptions of said events. After his review, Sec'y Noetzel asked for further comments or a MOTION to accept the 2010 ANNUAL REPORT as amended.

At this point, Comm. CALDERA raised a POINT OF ORDER. He pointed out that since Commissioner Thompson had left the meeting, the Commission was now in deliberation while one member SHORT of a QUORUM. He further stated that any business transacted from this point forward was likely invalid, and therefore MOVED for immediate ADJOURNMENT.

Comm. Levin pointed out that a lack of Quorum prohibits only the transaction of Official Business, but that additional Agenda items could be discussed, so long as no VOTE was taken. Without a SECOND to Comm. Caldera's Motion to Adjourn, the meeting continued for another five minutes of unofficial (and unreported) business. The meeting was discontinued (without official Adjournment) at approximately 8:00pm.

Note: Minutes of the 3/7/11 VAC Meeting approved by unanimous vote at VAC Meeting of 4/4/11

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104 MAR 3 1 2011

# Monday, APRIL 4, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

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NOTE: Acting President (and current V.P.) Raymond Wong, Presiding

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval

- 4. REVIEW of Previous Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval
  Note: Review of Comm. D. Wong's Minutes for Meeting of December 6, 2010.
  Secretary Noetzel to present DRAFT Minutes for meeting of March 8, 2011.
- 5. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).
- 6. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report. Acting President Raymond Wong to address the Commission.

B. Vice President's Report; VP R. Wong to report.

- C. Secretary's Report; Secretary Noetzel will report on status of Board of Supervisors and Mayoral appointments to the VAC, and distribute updated CURRENT COMMISSIONERS contact list.
- 7. REVIEW and approval of mandated corrections to 2010 ANNUAL REPORT.
- 8. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:
  - A. Veterans Employment, Comm. THOMPSON (Lead)
  - B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.
  - C. HOMELESS Veterans. Comm.
  - D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Comm. R. WONG lead. Also, Comm. NOETZEL to seek vote of approval for his proposed RESOLUTION in support of HR Bill #210, titled: Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011
  - E. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS. F. VETERANS PROJECTS. Comm. NOETZEL, (Lead), to report on development progress on project to contact. Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.
  - G. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING. Update on current status of negotiations with Board of Trust with respect to apportionment of building space for VETERAN related use.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Comm. ALFIDI to report on the 2/10/11 American Legion internal TRIAL of former A.L. District 8 Commander Michael Gerold, and the impact and implications of his conviction and expulsion from the Legion. Discussion to include possible further VAC action.
  - B. VAC request for support of City of S.F. Government for adequate funding for County Veterans Service Office programs, as suggested by Comm. Levin at previous meeting.
- NEW BUSINESS: Discussion and development of a Succession Plan to re-establish permanent VAC President and Officers.
- 11. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Alghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- ADJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at:

Stephen Noetzel, Secretary, at email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of April 4, 2011

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by VAC Acting President Ray Wong at 6:18pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Acting President.

#### Agenda item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Cauley, Gibbs, Noetzel, Ramirez, Wilkerson, D. Wong & R. Wong. (9)

Absent: Commissioners Alfidi, Guglielmoni, LevIn, & Thompson (all 4 excused, calendar conflict), as well as Comm. C. Gruwell. (un-notified absence)

Attending Guests: Ms. Alex Critchlow, Mr. Roger Dong, Mr. Thomas Scammell, & Mr. Robert Varni. plus City Attorney representative Wayne Snodgrass.

#### Agenda Item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

A previously distributed AGENDA was reviewed MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (Comm. Cauley, 2nd Comm. Glbbs) passed without exception.

#### Agenda Item 4 - Approval of Minutes of 12/6/10 and 3/7/11 VAC meetings.

Minutes for the 12/6/10 meeting (written by Past-Secretary Dara Wong) were distributed and reviewed. Comm. Cauley moved to accept the amended Minutes (2nd Comm. Caldera). The Motion passed and the Minutes for the VAC Meeting of 12/6/10 are now approved.

At this point a previously distributed copy of the Draft Minutes (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) for the March 7, 2011 meeting was reviewed. Comm. Cauley offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as written (2nd-Comm. Wilkinson). The Motion passed without exception and the Minutes for the VAC Meeting of 3/7/11 are approved.

#### Agenda item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Alex Critchlow introduced herself and the Personal Health and Fitness program that she works with. She confirmed that she is also a Veteran as well as a city resident. She was warmly encouraged to consider making application for a seat on the Commission.

Mr. Thomas Scammell introduced himself. He too is a (Navy) veteran and attending as a guest of Comm. Cauley. Mr. Roger Dong (President of the War Memorial Building Commission) addressed the group to give an update on negotiations with the building Board of Trust (BOT) regarding building use plans. Such plans include the establishment of a permanent Veterans Resource Center for San Francisco Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and a potential "Small Business Incubation lab" to develop Veteran owned new businesses ventures. His Commission is meeting with the BOT soon for further negotiations. Mr. Robert Varni (Recent VAC President, now retired) then addressed the Commission. He explained that he is now deeply involved with numerous other pursuits, and that is why, (when offered a Mayoral appointed Commission seat), he deferred to younger candidates who might bring new energy and commitment to the VAC. He then introduced a letter he received from Retired General Paul Monroe who runs a national organization called OPERATION FREE, purported to be established to assist veterans in a variety of pursuits. Mr. Varni also asked the Commission to seek to establish a City Proclamation to honor long-term (former) commissioner RENIE CHAMPAGNE for his long and dedicated service to veterans. Finally, he thanked the Commission for their support and dedication during his 4-year tenure.

#### Agenda item 6 - Officers Reports

A - Presidents Report. Acting President Raymond Wong began by welcoming (new) Commissioner Eduardo Ramirez Into the VAC, and asked him to re-introduce himself to the group. Comm. Ramirez then reviewed his own background, including career service in the USAF and his participation in the First Gulf War. He explained that after retirement from active duty he worked at the Department of Labor, and finally attained his current position at the VA facility at Ft. Miley where he serves as the Minority Veterans Programs Coordinator (among other responsibilities). Commission members then offered a warm 'Welcome Aboard' to new Commissioner Ramirez.

Commissioner Wong also reported on his recent visit to Washington D.C. as a part of the VFW National Legislative Action Team. He reported that he heard VA Sec'y. Shinseki speak on elimination of homelessness in the Veterans Community. A discussion on the problem ensued, Comm. Noetzel spoke of the success of the comprehensive model of the SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES work in this area, and urged pressure on the VA to use a similar FULL SOCIAL SERVICES approach when dealing with veterans' homeless issues. Comm. Cauley confirmed the need for a Comprehensive approach, citing her recent experience, serving as an Intake Volunteer at the recent Project Veterans Connect, #38 in an ongoing series!

At this point (approx. 7:20pm), Comm. Gibbs warned that he would have to leave the meeting at 7:30pm. It was pointed out that in so doing we would loose Quorum and be forced to adjourn. He said he would stay as long as possible. GOVERNMENT

DOCUMENTS DEPT B - VICE Presidents Report. Vice President Raymond Wong reported that at the end of March, he and Comm. Dara Wong attended the WELCOME HOME VITENAM VETERANS DAY at the State Capital. Both reported that it was a successful events 7011

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Comm. Noetzel then suggested that the Chair move directly to Agenda Item #7. Chairman Wong agreed
Agenda Item 7 — REVIEW and approval of mandated corrections to 2010 ANNUAL REPORT
Comm. Noetzel distributed copies of the latest DRAFT of the 2010 VAC ANNUAL REPORT as amended by earlier vote.
The amendments were quickly reviewed with general approval. Comm. Cauley made a Motion to Accept the REPORT as amended. (Comm. Caldera 2°). The Motion passed unanimously and the 2010 ANNUAL REPORT of the VAC is now officially approved. Sec'y Noetzel will see to it that it is properly distributed to the City Administration.

#### Agenda item 8 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

A. Veterans Employment. Comm. THOMPSON (Lead). Comm. Wilkerson reported. He announced that the 20th Annual Dept. of Veterans Affairs JOBS FAIR will be hosted by the University of Phoenix.

#### B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Comm. Cauley reported on an event that she is developing a TOWN HALL event for area veterans, for discussions on how best to move forward with implementation of the (new) policies with respect to recent rescission of the DOD "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" policies. Subjects to be included will include professional advice to LGBT Veterans who may have "Bad Paper" discharges over this issue, as well as veterans who may seek to re-enlist. Comm. Cauley reports that she has the support of State Sen. Mark Leno for this TOWN HALL MEETING concept, and asks for help in contacting Building Administration personnel who she can work with to nail down time, date, and place for the event. Members of the Commission committed to helping her find the right people to schedule the event

Comm. Caldera also reported on this subject, and introduced another event, passing out flyers for a MAY 1 event, hosted by American Legion Post 315, on the subject of SUICIDE PREVENTION in the Veterans' community, Caldera cited new statistics on the growing problem of suicide in the Veterans' community. The Community Forum will feature guest speaker Mark Stalnaker, Ph.D. Staff Psychologist and Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the SF VA Medical Center. Comm. Requested the support of the Commission with regard to this event. After some discussion it was decided that the event would be publicized in the VAC website. The Secretary agreed to initiate a Website Posting of the subject event.

- C. HOMELESS Veterans. (Covered in discussion at item 6A, above)
- D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. (Covered in discussion at item 6A. above).

Due to the Time Constraints imposed by an impending Loss of Quorum, the Chair then moved directly to Agenda Item 10.

Agenda Item 10. - NEW BUSINESS: Discussion and development of a Succession Plan to re-establish permanent VAC President and Officers.

Comm. Noetzel then offered a WRITTEN MOTION that he has developed as a Succession Plan for nominations and election of a new VAC President under our existing situation (which is not covered under our existing

Bylaws).

Comm. Cauley moved to SECOND the written Motion, however at that point the Representative of the City Attorney's office (Mr. Snodgrass) interjected that such a Motion would be improper as the Agenda does not indicate that there might be a MOTION to VOTE on a Succession Plan. After some discussion, the matter was TABLED until the next meeting when the Agenda would include such a statement. Comm. Caldera asked Mr. Snodgrass how we could insure that the matter would be resolved at the next meeting, including an election. Mr. Snodgrass shen provided a suggestion that the May meeting Agenda might include: "....Action Item: Discussion to adopt a Succession Plan to fill the vacant position of Commission President, with intent to hold nominations and an Elections under adopted Plan." After further discussion it was the consensus of the Commission that an amended Succession Plan be presented as a primary Agenda Item at the May meeting, including provisions for Nomination and Voting to establish a new President (to serve out the remainder of the current term) at that meeting.

At this point, before adjournment, Comm. Noetzel suggested that we consider one more item, that being, Agenda Item 8d. Agenda Item 8 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Comm. NOETZEL to seek vote of approval for his proposed RESOLUTION in support of HR Bill #210, titled: Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011. Comm. Noetzel distributed copies of his DRAFT RESOLUTION on the subject matter, reminding the Commission that they had reviewed and considered this document at the previous meeting but were unable to move forward on it due to Loss of Quorum. After additional discussion on the RESOLUTION, Comm. Baldinado made a Motion that the Commission ADOPT this RESOLUTION, as written. Comm. Cauley Seconded, and a vote was held. The vote passed (with one abstention), and therefore the RESOLUTION in support of HR Bill #210, titled: Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 is now an official VAC policy and document, and as such Secretary Noetzel will insure that it is forwarded to the City Administration for their support and further action.

At this point, after additional miscellaneous discussion Commissioner Gibbs had to leave the meeting. Facing a Loss of Quorum, the Chair moved directly to....

Agenda Item 11 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

After Moment of Silence observance, the meeting was AJORNED at 7:36pm

Note: Minutes of the 4/4/11 VAC Meeting approved by unanimous vote at VAC Meeting of 6/6/11

# GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

# San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission

APR 2 7 2011

RESOLUTION....

In support of Rep. Speier HR210; Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 SAN FRANCISCO
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Whereas a significant number of Filipino nationals (estimated to be somewhere between 250k and 750k) served in support of US combat operations in the Pacific Theatre during World War Two, and

Whereas such service is universally recognized as an important contribution to our eventual victory over Axis forces in the Pacific during that conflict, and many promises were made to both soldlers and civilians, in return for their support of our war effort at the time, and

Whereas such promises included recognition of the military service of Filipinos, including, but not limited to the 'Philippine Scouts', and the Philippine Commonwealth Army, under direct command of the US Military, to be recognized as fully eligible for benefits identical to members of the US military at the time, and

Whereas in 1946, in inexplicable contradiction to the granting of some form of benefits for veterans of the sixty-six other allies who supported our WWII military efforts, the US Congress Passed the Rescission Act, which effectively reneged on its promises, and stripped Filipino veterans of benefits, and

Whereas Government tracking figures indicate that there are currently less than 50,000 surviving Filipino veterans of WWII service, and some 10,000 of those currently reside in the US; most of whom have long since attained US citizenship, and

Whereas despite the fact that the US Government, has (as part of the Economic Stimulus Legislation of 2010) initiated payment of some benefits to qualifying Filiplino veterans, a significant number of such veterans are denied benefits simply because they are not in possession of Official Discharge documents from the US military, and

Whereas Us Representative Jackle Speler (of San Mateo) has recently introduced a new Bill (HR210) that goes a long way toward bringing justice to this righteous cause, and despite the obvious fact that 'time is running out' for those affected, there are still a number of Filipino Veterans of service who currently reside in San Francisco, and who could potentially be benefitled by passage of this legislation, and

Whereas Congresswoman Speier's legislation (Titled the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011), is unique in that it does not introduce a whole new Schedule of Benefits for Filipino veterans, but rather simply offers amendment to the existing VA schedule of benefits to direct the Secretary of the Veterans Administration to "....take into account any alternative relevant documents regarding the service (of Filipino veterans)."

Therefore be it Resolved, that the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, of the City and county of San Francisco fully endorses and urges the passage of said legislation, in an effort to bring, at long last, some measure of justice to our Filipino comrades in arms, who fought so valiantly, in common cause with us, in the Great Second War.

Be it Further Resolved, that in its advisory capacity, the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission hereby advises and requests that the City Government of San Francisco use all possible influence to urge and support passage of this important legislation.

Resolution approved by majority vote of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission at General Meeting of April 4, 2011. Copies forwarded to S.F. Mayor's Office and full Board of Supervisors.



# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

# Monday, MAY 2, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

# NOTE: Acting President (and current V.P.) Raymond Wong, Presiding

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval

- 4. REVIEW of Previous Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval
- 5. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).
- 6. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and development of a Succession Plan, to fill the vacant position of Commission President, with intent to hold nominations and an Elections under adopted Plan.

Note: Hopefully, after this item, the newly elected Commission President will preside over the balance of the meeting

## 7. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report.

B. Vice President's Report: VP R. Wong to report.

C. Secretary's Report; Secretary Noetzel will report on status of Board of Supervisors and Mayoral appointments to the VAC, and distribute updated CURRENT COMMISSIONERS contact list.

## REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

- A. Veterans Employment. Comm. THOMPSON (Lead)
- B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.
- C. HOMELESS Veterans. Comm.
- D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Comm. R. WONG lead. E. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS.

- F. VETERANS PROJECTS. Comm. NOETZEL, (Lead), to report on development progress on project to contact Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.
- G. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING. Update on current status of negotiations with Board of Trust with respect to apportionment of building space for VETERAN related use.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Comm. ALFIDI to report on the 2/10/11 American Legion internal TRIAL of former A.L. District 8 Commander Michael Gerold, and the impact and implications of his conviction and expulsion from the Legion. Discussion to include possible further VAC action.
- B. ACTION ITEM: VAC request for support of City of S.F. Government for adequate funding for County Veterans Service Office programs, as suggested by Comm. Levin at April meeting (including potential VOTE on Resolution of Support).
- 10. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

## 11. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: GOVERNMENT Stephen Noetzel, Secretary, at email <u>noetzel@pacbell.net</u> or telephone 415-372-9324NTS DEPT

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 2, 2011

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by VAC Acting President Ray Wong at 6:18pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Alleglance, led by the Acting President.

#### Agenda Item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfildi, Baldonado, Caldera, Cauley, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Thompson, Wilkerson, D. Wong & R. Wong. (11)

Absent: Commissioners, Gibbs, (calendar conflict) Comm. Guglielmoni, (medical issues), as well as Comm. C. Gruwell.

Attending Guests: Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ms. Lilly Chin, Mr. Roger Dong, Mr. Keith Boylan, Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. Jordan Towers, and City Attorney representative Wayne Snodgrass.

### Agenda Item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

The Meeting AGENDA was reviewed. MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (Comm. Caldera, 2<sup>rd</sup> Comm. Baldinado) passed without exception.

## Agenda Item 4 - Review of Minutes of April 4, 2011 VAC meeting.

A copy of the Draft Minutes of the April VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) was reviewed. Comm. Caldera offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as written (2<sup>nd</sup>. Comm. Wilkinson). Comm. Levin then offered a Motion to TABLE consideration of the April Minutes due to the fact that the City Mailroom had failed to mail out 'hard copy' to individual Commissioners and there was insufficient time for review. After brief discussion, a VOTE was held and the Motion to Table prevailed. Consideration of the 4/4/11 Meeting Minutes will be on the Aqenda for the June VAC meeting.

## Agenda Item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

Comm. Ray Wong introduced his guest, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ms. Lily Chin. Ms. Chin addressed the group and spoke of her career in the US Army as a nurse at Letterman Hospital and other posts. She announced that she is a resident of San Francisco, and is interested in appointment to the VAC...if other candidates are not available.

Commissioner Roger Dong, President of the SF War Memorial Building Commission (WMC) reported on the current status of negotiations between the WMC and the Board of Trustees (BoT) regarding Building Use Plans both currently and after the planned building Retrofit. He provided into on a WMC proposal to establish a Veterans Resource Center (in Room 219) to be installed as soon as possible for the benefit of local veterans. Some \$50k has been raised to establish the Resource Center, along with donations of furniture, computers and other electronic equipment. He reported that despite the support of at least six (6) members of the S.F. Board of Supervisors, the BoT rejected the proposal on first reading. The Resource Center will again be considered at the 5/12 meeting. Comm. Dong asked that the original Letter of Support for WMC Building Plans (that went to former mayor Newsome in December of 2010), now be Re-Sent to current Mayor Lee, with an dedendum to Include info on the planned Resource Center. City Attorney Snodgrass then offered an opinion that the discussion was now "Off Agenda". He suggested that if the original Letter to Mayor was intended for both the retiring and incoming Mayor, it might be appropriate to resent the original letter to Mayor Lee. Secretary Noteztel will follow up.

Meeting guest, Mr. Kelth Boylan introduced himself. He spoke of his (Gulf War 1) milltary service and his advocacy for veterans rights/benefits since his discharge, including his current position as a Program Director at Swords to Plowshares. He mentioned that he is interested in a commission appointment (at the VAC). He also mentioned that he is not, at this time, a resident of San Francisco.

Meeting Guest Mr. Jordan Towers introduced himself. He spoke of his service in the Marine Corps, including a tour of duty in the current Iraq war. He spoke of his advocacy for student vets in particular including co-founding of the Student Veterans Alliance program at City College. Mr. Towers is currently employed at Swords to Plowshares. He mentioned that he is interested in a commission appointment (at the VAC), and that he resides within the City of San Francisco.

## Agenda Item 6 - ACTION ITEM: Discussion and Vote on Succession Plan for Commission Presidency.

Acting President Ray Wong opened the discussion by referencing the revised 15-point Succession Plan authored by Sec'y Noetzel. Sec'y Noetzel again apologized for lack of opportunity for advance study of his modified Succession Plan (due to the City Mailroom failure to send out our mailing this month). He explained that is was similar to the one we discussed last month, the primary change being a provision to enable both nominations and a vote to elect an Interim President at this meeting, and offered it as his MOTION for adoption. Comm. Ramirez raised a Point of Order in reference to the Election Procedure currently defined in the Commission Bylaws. He asked if adoption of the suggested Succession Plan would represent a change in the commission Bylaws. Sec'y Noetzel explained that the Election Procedures enumerated in the Bylaws are in reference to our annual Election of Officers held each December/January, to establish new Officers for the new Calentia-Pyeiar-Hell United Procedures and the procession Plan was valid for resolution of the suggested succession Plan was valid for resolution of the Sucrember (all plants) and the procession Plan was valid for resolution of the Sucrember (all plants) and the procession Plants was valid for resolution of the sucrember (all plants).

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situation only, and as such they represent no change whatsoever to the current commission Bylaws, City Attorney Snodgrass then asked for further clarification; asking if we found ourselves in this position again (in the future). would the Minutes for Succession Plan rules we adopted tonight, hold as binding precedent? Sec'y Noetzel replied that they would not, indicating that the current Succession Plan is for the current situation only, and that new rules would have to be again adopted if a similar 'mid-term vacancy' were to occur in the future. Comm. Caldera commented that the current Succession Plan was offered as an Agenda Action Item (under the current Agenda) at the suggestion of City Attorney who had pointed out our failure to meet the Public Notice requirement in the previous meeting. Comm. Levin then asked for adequate time to consider the Succession Plan, and made a MOTION that we table this item until the next VAC meeting. Sec'y Noetzel raised a Point of Order to indicate that there is already a motion on the floor (i.e. the 15-Point Succession Plan). Comm. Caldera pointed out that discussion heretofore was inappropriate as there had been no SECOND to ANY motion. He offered a belated SECOND to Sec'y Noetzel's motion on the Succession Plan, Comm. Wilkerson then offered a belated SECOND to Comm. Levin's motion to table. Acting Pres. Wong asked the City Attorney for a ruling on how to proceed. Mr. Snodgrass offered that Roberts Rules suggest that a vote on the last motion should be taken first. After further discussion, Acting Pres. Wong called the question and a vote on the (Levin) TABLING motion was held. The motion FAILED with a vote of FOUR in favor. FIVE against. One abstention, At that point discussion continued on adoption of the Succession Plan, After further discussion, Acting Pres, Wong called the question and a vote on acceptance of the Succession Plan was held. The motion PASSED with a vote of FIVE in favor, FOUR opposed. One abstention. The current Succession Plan was adopted. At this point, Acting Pres. Wong Initiated the Succession Plan with a call for opened NOMINATIONS for the office of Interim President, Comm. Thompson nominated Comm. Ray Wong, (2nd by Comm. Wilkerson) who immediately accepted the Nomination. Sec'y Noetzel nominated Comm. John Caldera (2nd by Comm. Ramirez) who Immediately accepted the Nomination, Acting Pres. Wong then called (thrice) for additional nominations. Hearing none, the Nominations were closed and Ballots were prepared, with an Indication to vote for either of the two nominated candidates. While BALLOTS were distributed, both candidates for Interim President were afforded time to present their Plan for leadership of the VAC for the balance of the year. On completion of the Statements, Commissioners voted by marking their Ballots. The Ballots were then collected and tabulated by (quest) Charles Reed, with verification by Comm. Cauley. The Vote Tally was announced as follows: SIX (6) votes for Comm. WONG: FOUR votes for Comm. Caldera: ONE Abstention. Under the Succession Plan adopted. NEITHER candidate attained the required plurality of nine (9) votes to succeed as Interim President, In moving forward, Sec'y Noetzel offered a Motion to amend the Succession Plan to allow for a Simple Majority (vote) to elect an Interim President, City Attorney Snodgrass then interiected that since changes to the draft Succession Plan were not indicated on the Meeting Agenda, he would deem it inappropriate to proceed in this manner at this time. After some discussion the Commission agreed to end continuing effort to establish an Interim President at this time, and continue with the balance of the Meeting Agenda, as led by Acting President Wong.

### Agenda item 7 - Officers Reports

<u>A - Presidents Report.</u> Acting President Raymond Wong reported that he and Comm. Dara Wong recently attended the funeral of Marine Lance Corporal Harry Liu at the San Bruno National Cemetery. Cpl. Liu died in service to his nation in the current middle east conflict(s) and the surviving family was thankful for the participation of a variety of members representing various Veterans Service Organizations.

#### B - VICE Presidents Report.

Vice President Raymond Wong stated that the above report represented his "VP Report" as well.

#### C - Secretary's Report.

Sec'y. Noetzel began his Report by distributing copies of a current ROSTER of the VAC, including new information on inclusive dates of commission appointment terms and full contact information. He reported on the new Commissions & Council's Database that the City has initiated, it will include important data on well over 100 distinct City of S.F. Commissions and Council's with a primary intent of providing a usable tool to inform the public of what Commission Term Expirations are Imminent, and requirements for greater citizen participation. Sec'y Noetzel reported on the 4-hour Training Session he attended (along with Secretaries of numerous other Commissions) to prepare for launch of the program. In reviewing the Roster document, several commissionsers offered corrective or updated information. Sec'y Noetzel provided a quick review of his communications with the Mayor's Office, indicating that they are Interviewing candidates for the currently opened commission seats, who are competent, committed, and fully prepared to represent the full diversity of the Veterans community of San Francisco.

#### Agenda Item 8 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

A. Veterans Employment. Comm. THOMPSON (Lead).

Comm. Wilkerson announced that at this point there are at least 23 potential Employers registered for participation at the 5/11/11 Dept. of Veterans Affairs JOBS FAIR (hosted by the University of Phoenix in San Francisco). Comm. RamIrez announced that (at the JOB FAIR) he will be presenting a seminar titled: How to Get a Better Job in the Federal Government.

#### B Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Comm. Cauley reported on some problems she has experienced in generating broad support for a TOWN HALL event for area veterans, to examine how best to move forward with implementation of the (new) policies with respect to recent rescission of the DOD "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" policies. She is working with local publications (Bay Area Reporter, etc.) to get publicity and community support for the concept. Several ideas for generating such support were discussed. Comm. Caulev will continue to press forward to launch this Important TOWN HALL project.

Comm. Caldera reported on a MAY 1 Community Forum event, hosted by American Legion Post 315, on the subject of VETERAN'S SUICIDE and SUICIDE PREVENTION in the Veterans' community. Comm. Caldera reported that guest speakers Mark Statinaker (Ph.D. Staff Psychologist and Suicide Prevention

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 2, 2011 (Page 3 of 4)

Coordinator at the SF VA Medical Center.) and author Aaron Gantz provided alarming new information and statistics on the growing problem of sulcide in the Veterans' community; including the "Hidden Loss" of many additional untimely Veterans deaths due to substance abuse; homelessness and an inordinately high accident rate. He reported that the Help for Veterans HOTLINE, at1-800-273-TALK (8255) is an effective resource tool for troubled veterans, as over 200,000 calls were logged last year! At the end of the event, guest speakers Stalnacker and Gantz were presented with CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION, issued by Supervisor ROSS MIRKARIMI, for their outstanding work in the area of suicide prevention.

### C. HOMELESS Veterans.

Acting Pres. Wong reported that his recent Email to the Commission, which covered the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Position Paper on many important Veteran's issues, including that of the very serious problem of Homeless veterans.

- D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. (No new report).
- E. National Veterans Groups.

Comm. Caldera reported that as Commander of A.L. Post 315, he received an Award (from the National American Legion Hq) commending Post 315 for attainment of the 100-member threshold.

#### F. Veterans Projects.

Sec'y Noetzel reported on new developments regarding our Resolution in Support of the Filiplno Veterans Fairness Act (passed by the VAC last month). Noetzel reported that after receiving a letter transmitting our Resolution to the Mayor, he received a call from the Mayor's FULL SUPPORT for the Resolution. Mr. Elliott advised us to contact the Board of Supervisors to initiate a City of San Francisco "Mirror Resolution" to underline and further advance our support for this important legislation. Comm. Baldinado rose to thank the entire Commission for supporting this cause.

Sec'y Noetzel also reported the Mr. Elliott expressed Interest in our Research Initiative to learn what commitment to the hirling of Veterans can be garnered from the largest San Francisco based Corporations. He asked that we keep him appraised of progress in this effort as the City may, at some point, like to 'partner' with the VAC in this effort.

G. War Memorial Veterans Building. (Largely covered in Paragraph 2, Agenda item 5, above, however...) at this point Comm. Levin reiterated that the original (12/6/10) VAC Letter of Support for the WMC Building Plans now be Re-Sent (by the Secretary) to Mayor Edwin Lee. The Secretary agreed to follow through.

## Agenda Item 9 - Old Business

- A. REPORT on TRIAL of (former) A.L. District 8 Leadership.
  - Comm. ALFIDI reported on results of the 2/10/11 American Legion internal trial. He recounted results as follows:

    Former A.L. District 8 Commander, Michael Gerold, was convicted on 3 (of 5) counts of gross
    - misconduct and recommended that he be EXPELLED from the American Legion.

      Matt Shea was convicted on ONE count, as a responsible co-conspirator, A REPRIMAND was
    - Matt Shea was convicted on ONE count, as a responsible co-conspirator. A REPRIMAND was recommended.
    - Additional persons charged were CLEARED of any charges.

In concluding his report, Comm. Alfidi confirmed that he has followed through on the recommendations of the Commission and forwarded a copy of our January Letter to the City Administration (requesting a review of the conduct of Michael Gerold for potential Infractions of State or Local laws), to the office of the new District Attorney (Gascon).

## B. ACTION ITEM: Support adequate funding for County Veterans Service Office programs.

Comm. Levin reported that in County Veterans Service Supervisor Cheryl Cook is appreciative of the support she has received from the VAC and she is awaiting resolution of the State, County and City budgets with respect to funding of her office and staff. She will call on the VAC for further support if needed, after budgets are finalized, and before funding hearings begin. Comm. Levin stressed that the main effort at this time is to do all possible to facilitate eventual relocation of the County Veterans Service Offices Into the Veterans War Memorial Building, preferably BEFORE the planned retrofit shut-down, but most certainly after.

## Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 2, 2011 - Page 4 of 4.

Misc.Old Business Items:

Comm. Caldera made reference to our Annual Report (specifically its reference to) our continuing initiative with respect to pressing for research and development of a VETERANS COURT, and requested that since Comm. Guglielmoni was (who had led this initiative) was currently Indisposed (due to health issues), that this important issue should not be abandoned. Sec'y Noetzel reported that he recently met with Comm. Guglielmoni, and that he is undergoing major surgery to repair his knee; but that after recuperation, he WILL be back to the Commission, and the is STILL interested in the work of the Commission, including continuation of his own research into this subject. Sec'y Noetzel also mentioned that in one of his last acts while in office, former Governor Schwarzenegger VETOED a bill (passed by CA Legislators) that would have established a system of VETERANS COURTS throughout California. Comm. D. Wong then reported that the Vetoed Bill is effective. Per continuing the vetoed of the comment of the vetoe of the comment of the vetoe o

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 2, 2011 (Page 4 of 4)

local governments can establish such Courts on their own, as has already been accomplished in San Diego. At this point Guest Jordan Towers interjected that his employer, SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES is currently working with the City/Country of San Francisco on an initiative to establish a local Veteran's Court right here in S.F. Mr. Towers concluded with a suggestion that the VAC might look into partnering with 'Swords' in this effort. Comm. Ramirez then mentioned that he had recently received an Email that provided information on all Veteran's Courts established or planned within California. The Chair requested that Comm. Ramirez forward such information to the Secretary for full dissemination to the Commission, and Comm. Ramirez acreed to do so.

#### Chair's Call for ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Comm. Cauley announced that a Homeless Connect event will be held in the Bayview/ Hunters Point area on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, and requested VAC support and participation.
- b. Comm. Levin invited all guests and Commissioners to attend the annual "Honor & Remember" Memortal day Event at Presidio (10:30am to 2:00pm on Monday, May 30, 2011). Ceremonies will include live music and an address by General Myatt, who will provide an update on the status of the Design Competition for the War Memorial Courtyard Memorial, which has now been narrowed to three finalist designs.
- c. Comm. Cauley announced that she is included in a "short film" called "THE RESCUE". It will play at the Castro theatre (with another 'short', at 4pm on Thursday the 23" of June. She invited all to attend. Guest Jordan Towers announced that Swords to Plowshares will be hosting the 3" annual "SHOUT" event on Thursday, May 5. This event affords an opportunity for female veterans to speak out about various aspects of their experiences in the military.
- d. Comm. Ramlrez announced that the VA facility at Ft. Miley (where he works) often hosts Community Meetings to solicit community input for their Master Development Plan. He asked if he could send such announcements to the Commission, and was encouraged by all to do so.

Agenda Items 10/11 - Honors Report, Moment of Silence, Adjournment

In memory of American Armed Services members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed service community.

After Moment of Silence observance, the meeting was AJORNED at 7:50pm

Minutes of the 5/2/11 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED (as amended) at the VAC Meeting of June 6, 2011

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104 MAY 3 1 2011

# Monday, JUNE 6, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOTE: Acting President (and current V.P.) Raymond Wong, Presiding

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

- REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval
   REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

   Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 2 April, 2011 and...
   Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 2 May, 2011.
- 5. WELCOME to recently appointed Commissioners. Mayor LEE has recently made FOUR appointments to fill new terms for Mayoral Appointees to the VAC. As the appointments include the Acting President, Secretary Noetzel will lead official WELCOME BACK to re-appointed Commissioners CHRIS GRUWELL and RAYMOND WONG, and WELCOME ABOARD statements to new Commissioners ALEXANDRA CRICHLOW and AMBER ROSE.
- 6. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).
- 7. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and development of a (simplified) Succession Plan, to fill the vacant position of Interim Commission President, (and any subsequently opened Offices) with intent to hold nominations and Elections under adopted Plan.

Note: Hopefully, after this item, the newly elected Interim Commission President will preside over the balance of the meeting.

#### 8. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report.
- B. Vice President's Report; VP R. Wong to report.
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel will report on status of Board of Supervisors and Mayoral appointments to the VAC, and distribute updated CURRENT COMMISSIONERS contact list.
- 8. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:
  - A. Veterans Employment, Comm. THOMPSON (Lead, to report on 5/11/11 JOB FAIR, and other).
    - B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.
    - C. HOMELESS Veterans.
    - D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Comm. R. WONG lead. E. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS.

    - F. VETERANS PROJECTS. Comm. NOETZEL, (Lead), to report on development progress on project to contact Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.
  - G. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING. Update on current status of negotiations with Board of Trust with respect to apportionment of building space for VETERAN related use.
- 9. OLD BUSINESS
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 11. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- AIORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at:

Stephen Noetzel, Secretary, at email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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## PUBLIC ACCESS:

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For information on your rights under the Sunshine ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Mr. Chris RUSTON, Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at telephone # 415-554-7724.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5th Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

# DISABILITY ACCESS

The War Memorial Veterans Building (between Grove & McAllister Streets) is wheelchair accessible via front entrance (401 Van Ness). There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of June 6, 2011

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by VAC Acting President Ray Wong at 6:08pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Acting President.

#### Agenda item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Gibbs, Levin, Noetzel, Rose,

Thompson, Wilkerson, D. Wong & R. Wong. (11)

Absent: Commissioner(s): Alfidi (un-notified absence), Comm. Guglielmoni, (medical issues), Comm. Ramirez (calendar conflict).

Attending Guests: Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mr. Roger Dong, Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. Jordan Towers, Mr. Greg Varga, Mr. Tim Haynes. There was no City Attorney representative present.

#### Agenda item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

The Meeting AGENDA was reviewed. MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (Comm. Levin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Wilkerson). In Discussion, Comm. Caldera noted that an item for Commission Goals and Plans has not been included in this or recent Agenda's. He requested that it be returned in future Agenda's. Discussion ended and the meeting AGENDA, as written, was passed without exception.

#### Agenda item 4 - Review of Minutes of TWO Previous VAC meetings.

The Draft Minutes of the April 4, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Caldera offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as written (2\*\*-Comm. Thompson). Hearing no discussion a vote was held and the Minutes for the April 4, 2011 VAC Meeting was approved unanimously.

The Draft Minutes of the May 2, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) was reviewed. Comm. Wilkerson offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as written (2<sup>rd</sup>-Comm. Caldera). In discussion, Comm. Caldera asked for a minor addition under report on Agenda item 8B; specifically, that Minutes include fact that Supervisor Mirkarimi had provided CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION for the work of Mark Stalnacker and Aaron Gantz, guest speakers at the 5/1 Suicide Prevention Event hosted by AL Post 315. Comm. Dara Wong also offered some name spelling corrections. Discussion ended, vote was held and the May 2, 2011 Meeting Minutes, (as amended) passed unanimously.

## Agenda item 5 - WELCOME to recently appointed Commissioners

Chairman Wong reiterated the fact that Mayor LEE recently made FOUR appointments to fill new terms for Mayoral Appointees to the VAC. As the appointments include the Acting President, the Chair asked Secretary Noetzel to lead an official 'welcome back' to re-appointed Commissioners CHRIS GRUWELL and RAYMOND WONG, and WELCOME ABOARD Introductions to new Commissioners ALEXANDRA CRICHLOW and AMBER ROSE.

#### Agenda item 6 - PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Roger Dong, President of the SF War Memorial Building Commission (WMC) reported that the Building Use Committee of the Board of Trustees (BoT) recently voted unanimous approval for establishment of the Veterans Resource Center (in Room 205). It is expected that the full BOT will add their approval of the project at their next meeting, as they have already financed significant electrical and electronic systems upgrades to that space, for use by the Resource Center. Roger asked that the VAC become official Co-Sponsors of the VRC and plan to attend the planned opening in July.

Meeting guest Mr. Charles Reed spoke to congratulate the newest members of the Commission and expressed his confidence that they represented added strength to the VAC.

Meeting guest Mr. Jordan Towers re-introduced himself, and spoke of his continuing involvement as co-founder of the Bay Area Alliance of Veterans, a group of young veterans who are all leaders in various Campus Veterans Clubs at Bay Area Universities, Colleges, and Technical schools. He introduced Mr. Greg Varga who is a leader in the new Veterans Club at the S.F. Academy of Arts University.

Guest and veteran Mr. Tim Hayner introduced himself and informed the Commission of his interest in working with veterans as a potential VAC Commissioner. He informed the Commission on the very positive aspects of a 2-year Veterans Housing Transitional Program called Ralston Place (on Turk St.) where he currently resides.

# Agenda Item 7 - ACTION ITEM: Discussion and development of (simplified) Succession Plan to fill vacant position of Interim President.

After introduction of the subject by Chairman Wong, Comm. Levin immediately offered a motion to affirm the results of the May VAC meeting vote....won by Acting President and current Vice President Comm. RAYMOND WONG, (by simple majority), and to officially install Comm. Wong as President, for the remainder of the 2011 term. Motion seconded by Comm. Gruwell and discussion ensued. Comm. Noetzel recalled that the place we left this issue last month was at a point where the simple majority vote did not meet the "super-majority" criteria that we had approved as the election standard. Comm. Levin re-asserted his current motion and asked for a vote on re-affirmation of the May vote to install Comm. Wong as Interim President of the VAC. Comm. Noetzel advocated for a new election (even if simple Majority is set as criteria) to afford the new Commissioners an opportunity to vote. He also raised the question of the position of

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of June 6, 2011 (Page 2 of 3)

Commission Vice President, (currently held by Comm. Wong), and asked how his elevation to President would affect the office of Vice President. Comm. Noetzel pointed out that there is a Brown Act mandate for Election of Officers to be accomplished via Public Written Ballot. After further discussion it was agreed that the written ballots from the May 2 meeting would stand as the Official Election Record, and that this current vote was merely to AFFIRM and VALIDATE that election. Comm. Gruwell 'called the question', and a Roll Call Vote was held, with the following results:

NINE (9) Commissioners Voting 'AYE'; (BALDINADO, CRITCHLOW, GIBBS, GRUWELL, LEVIN, ROSE, THOMPSON, WILKERSON, (Dara) WONG.)

Zero 'NAY' votes

TWO (2) Abstain (CALDERA, NOETZEL)

THREE (3) Excused, Absent (ALFIDI, GUGLIELMONI, RAMIREZ)

ONE (1) Not Voting (Ray WONG)

The Motion to Affirm election of May 2, 2011 carries, and Commissioner RAYMOND WONG is officially installed and congratulated as COMMISSION PRESIDENT for the balance of the 2011 term.

At this point, Comm. Caldera raised a Point of Order to point out that Commission Bylaws mandate that a VICE PRESIDENT be part of the Commission Officers. Comm. Levin stated that he had been informed by City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass that the VAC is under no obligation to elect a Vice President. Comm. Levin then made a motion that we D0 NOT proceed to resolve the Vice President issue at this time. Comm. Gruwell seconded and discussion ensued. Comm. Caldera reiterated that the VAC Bylaws call for three officers; President, Vice President, and Secretary, and held that without a Vice President, we are in violation of said Bylaws. Comm. Noetzel asked if the issue might be resolved by a vote to affirm Commissioner WONG as BOTH President and Vice President. Comm. Levin declined to add such a provision into his MOTION. Question was called and a VOTE was held on the LEVIN MOTION, namely, to NOT resolve the Vice President issue at this time. Eight Commissioners voted AYE, none voted NAY, TWO (2) abstained. The motion CARRIED – there will be no resolution of the issue of Vice President is this time.

#### Agenda item 8 - Officers Reports

A - Presidents Report. President Raymond Wong reported on yet another successful MEMORIAL DAY event at the Presidio. He noted that several of the Commissioners attended the annual Commemoration of the Fallen, as well as Mayor Lee and other elected officials, dignitaries, and Candidates for Office. Pres. Wong congratulated Commissioner Levin for his efforts in organizing and coordinating the event, and Comm. Levin graciously broadened the compliment to all who played a role.

## B - Secretary's Report.

Sec'y. Noetzel began his Report by distributing copies of the latest CONFIDENTIAL ROSTER of the VAC, including contact information for new Commissioners, etc.

Sec'y. Noetzel also reported on changes/upgrades he has been making to the City WEBSITE pages for the VAC. He urged Commissioners to review the website frequently as the changes/upgrades are already resulting in a significant increase in public access to the site

Sec'y. Noetzel also reported that he has now completed all Commission input for the new City Database on Commissions and Councils, including Term of Office Dates, and information on the two current vacancies.

At close of his Report, the Secretary gathered information from all Commissioners who were in need of new business cards, for production of new cards prior to the next VAC meeting, (8/1/11).

## Agenda item 9 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

A. <u>Veterans\_Employment</u>, Comm. THOMPSON reported on the success of the 21<sup>th</sup> annual EDD Dept, of Veterans Affairs\_JOBS\_FAIR, hosted by the University of Phoenix in San Francisco, on 5/11/11. He reported that some 33 Employers\_participated, as well as over 402 job seekers, half of whom were veterans. By next meeting, Comm. Thompson will report on how many of the 402 job applicants were actually hired by the attending Vendor Employers.

Sec'y Noetzel also reported on progress on his project to contact the major employers in San Francisco. He informed commissioners that he has now established an Email dialogue with the Human Resources VP at CHASE BANK in an effort to get more detail as to how they intend to follow through on their full-page ad in the SF Chronicle, (3/21/11) where they make public commitment to 'partner' with 10 other firms "in a joint-commitment to hire 100,000 veterans, by the year 2020". Comm. Noetzel again asked that individual Commissioners add their own effort into contacting the major Bay Area corporate employers to inquire as to their Corporate Policies on hiring Veterans. Comm. Glibbs volunteered to participate in the project in the project of the progress of the property of the progress of the p

#### B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Comm. Caldera reported that he recently had opportunity to speak with (new) City District Attorney GASTONE and introduced the Commissions interest in the establishment of a VETERANS COURT in the city. He further reported that D.A. Gastone was very interested in the concept and promised to look into the issue. Comm. LevIn mentioned that DA Gastone is currently involved in an election campaign to retain his office, and that regardless of election outcome, the Commission should follow-up with the office of the City D.A. Immediately after the November election. He further suggested that Comm. GIBBS might be helpful in this follow-up effort, as he has been a long time advocate for development of a local VETERANS COURT.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of June 6, 2011 (Page 3 of 3)

Guest Jordan Towers added that his employer SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES already has a good working relationship with the Police Department administration of a 'VETERANS 'POD' at the City Jali in San Bruno. He reported that this program has potential for becoming the 'base clientele' for eventual development of a City of San Francisco Veterans Court.

#### C HOMELESS Voterans

Comm. Gibbs reported that the next Bay Area Veterans 'Stand-down' (a bi-annual event to provide direct services to Homeless Veterans), is now scheduled for AUGUST, of 2012. President Wong asked that Comm. Gibbs plan to provide the Commission with a monthly update on his meetings with SFPD and developments involving homeless veterans and the 'Veterans Pod' in the San Bruno jail, as part of a continuing AGENDA item for all future VAC meetings. Comm. Gibbs agreed to do so.

## D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

President WONG made reference to an email he had earlier sent to Commissioners, which covered five specific items of recent development in this area. He began by announcing that POTUS Barack Obama recently awarded the extremely rare Medal of Honor to Army Sgt. LEROY PETRY for his bravery and heroism in action in the Afghanistan conflict. His LEGISLATIVE REPORT also made reference to topics including a House of Representatives Committee Hearing on VA Practices.

### E. National Veterans Groups.

Comm. Levin reported that 'models' of the THREE 'finalist' designs for a future Courtyard Veterans MEMORIAL are now on view in the lobby of the War Memorial Veterans building. The Memorial Commission is seeking input and comments on the designs to help shape their final choice. Comm. Levin and guest Roger Dong urged all meeting attendees to support this important project to the utmost; including personal donations, if possible. They point out that the development of this project is an indicator of veterans' commitment to future utilization of the War Memorial Veterans Building as a primary center for the needs and interest of the veteran community of the city. Comm. Levin pointed out that plans for the 'division of space' in the building (after the 2-year retrofit shut-down) are now in heavy negotiation between the War Memorial Commission (as advocates for Veterans use of building space), and the Board of Trust and their advocacy for expanded use of building space by the Arts Community.

### F. Veterans Projects.

Sec'y Noetzel reported that he received a CAL-VET document from Comm. Ramirez, which outlines the State of California Hiring Policies on 'Preference Points' for State employment with respect to Veterans. The document delineates several job categories, and what the specific Veterans Advantage is for each. The document is available to the public, and should be widely distributed among job-seeking veterans.

G. War Memorial Veterans Building. (Largely covered in Paragraph E, Agenda item 9, above) Comm. Levin recounted an extensive list of Veterans Building related meetings and events during the next two weeks.

#### Agenda Item 10 - Old Business

Comm. Caldera asked if the Secretary could provide new VAC Business cards, both for new Commissioners, and for all Commissioners who needed them. Sec'y Noetzel agreed to do so and asked Commissioners who needed cards to provide specific information for the order, immediately after adjournment. Comm. Caldera also mentioned the Commission WEBSITE PAGES, and specifically mentioned that the page indicating a list of VETERANS RELATED SERVICES/CONTACTS is outdated, with many obsolete links indicated. Sec'y Noetzel indicated that he is continuing to update our Website Pages and that he would address this issue in the near future. Comm. Gibbs offered to help with development of an updated list of Veterans Services Links.

Comm. Baldonado again thanked the Commission for its support of the proposed Federal Legislation in support of the Fairness to Filipino Veterans Act as introduced by Rep. Spier. He asked that we continue to support this legislation in every possible way.

## Chair's Call for ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. President Wong announced that the Oakland A's have scheduled a Tribute to US Veterans and Armed Forces personnel, as part of their 4" of July game festivities. He announced that Reduce Rate tickets are available to all veterans if they mention the PASSWORD when ordering tickets (The password: 'SALUTE').

Agenda Items 11/12 – Honors Report, Moment of Silence, Adjournment In memory of American Armed Services members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed service community.

After Moment of Silence observance, the meeting was AJORNED at 7:40pm

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

Minutes of the 6/6/11 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED (as amended) at the VAC Meeting of August 1, 2011



# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

# Monday, August 1, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

# President Raymond Wong, Presiding

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

- 3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval
  4. REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval
  a. Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 6 June, 2011
- 5. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).
- 6. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report.

B. Vice President's Report; VP R. Wong to report.

C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel will report on: Attendance notice from Mayor's office.

Status of Board of Supervisors appointments to the VAC Distribution of new Business Cards

Review of VAC Website Pages and issues.

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JUL 26 2011

7. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

A. Veterans Employment, Comm. THOMPSON (Lead, to report on 5/11/11 JOB FAIR, and other).

B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

C. HOMELESS Veterans.

D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Pres. R. WONG will lead discussion to consider VAC support for CA Assembly Bill 199 introduced by Fiona Ma. Thrust of the bill is to encourage Social Science instruction on Public Schools (Grades 7-12) to include history of the significant role played by our Filipino allies in World War 2.

E. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS.

F. VETERANS PROJECTS. Comm. NOETZEL, (Lead), to report on development progress on project to contact Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.

G. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING. Update on current status of negotiations with Board of Trust with respect to apportionment of building space for VETERAN related use.

## NEW Business:

- A. Pres. Wong to lead discussion on Proposed Commission Rules for written communication, to include:
  - Commissioners to have OPTION to be copied on all Commission Correspondence

Commission Communications go out under President and VP.

- Þ Request of the City Attorneys office, Clerk of the Board and Mayors Office be approved by Commission President.
  - Þ Appointments as liaisons with veterans service organizations and other veterans support agencies and organizations to be made by the Commission President.
- 9. Commission GOALS AND PLANS
- 10. OLD BUSINESS
- 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Irag/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

## 12. AIORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at:

Stephen Noetzel, Secretary, at email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

# DISABILITY ACCESS

The War Memorial Veterans Building (between Grove & McAllister Streets) is wheelchair accessible via front entrance (401 Van Ness). There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Aug. 1, 2011

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by VAC President Ray Wong at 6:05pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, led by the President.

## Agenda item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Gibbs, Gruwell, Noetzel, Ramirez, Rose, Thompson, Wilkerson, D. Wong & R. Wong. (13) Absent: Commissioner(5): Comm. J. Gudilelmoni, (medical issues), Comm. W. Levin (wife's illness).

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Attending Guests: Lt. Col. (Ret.) Roger Dong, Col. (Ret.) Deborah Dacumos, Mr. Jerom Vahai. There was no City Attorney representative present.

#### Agenda item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

The Meeting AGENDA was reviewed. MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (Comm. Wilkerson 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Thompson). In Discussion, Comm. Noetzel requested clarification of item listed under New Business. After minor correction, meeting AGENDA, was passed unanimously.

## Agenda item 4 - Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the June 6, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) was reviewed. Comm. Caldera offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as written (2"- Comm. Ramirez). In discussion, Comm. Rose suggested correction of a minor spelling error at item 6. Discussion ended, vote was held and the June 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes, (as amended) passed unanimously.

#### Agenda item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

Meeting guest Col. Deborah Dacumos (Ret.) was introduced by Comm. Neetzel. Col. Dacumos described her background, saying that she recently retired after a 30+ year-long career in the US Army, where she first served as a nurse, and continued thereafter in hospital and Medical Services supervision. Her foreign service tours included tours Korea, Iraq and Alghanistan. She also served at the Palo Alto Medical Facility. Deborah is a resident of San Francisco and is considering making application to serve on the VAC.

Commissioner Roger Dong, President of the SF War Memorial Building Commission (WMC) provided an update on 'startup' progress of the new Veterans Resource Center (in Room 205). He stated that new computers were recently installed (by young vets from the Bay Area Alliance of Student Veterans). He announced that the target date for opening of the VRC is within 2 weeks.

Meeting guest Mr. Jerom Vahai, introduced himself, and spoke of his work as a volunteer 'facilitator' to contact private corporations — especially those who may have "Green Jobs" available (i.e. jobs involved with preservation of the environment). His initiative in this area is gaining traction and he has been invited to the White House to describe his work.

#### Agenda item 6 - Officers Reports

A - Presidents Report. President Raymond Wong reported that he and Comm. Dara Wong recently attended (and helped serve food) at a Picnic Cook-out for residents of the Community Living Center @ Ft. Miley; including past VAC Commissioner Ralph Gibson who now resides there. Comm. Gibson sends greetings to current Commission. They also attended the 4" of July Oakland A's game, where veterans and military service members were honored, and they volunteered at another fund-raising event sponsored by the S.F. Glants, to benefit the Northern Cal Internal Research Enterprise (NCIRE – an ongoing cancer research program at the S.F. VA Medical facility).

### B - Secretary's Report.

Sec'y. Noetzel began with the Mayor's Survey on Commission Attendance. He reported that Secretaries of the 97 City Commissions, Boards and Councils had recently received new Reporting Requirements for Meeting Attendance and Tardiness for Mayoral appointees. There are separate, but similar requirements for BOS Appointees. He emphasized the importance of each Commissioner attending the full meeting each month, unless a valid excuse is submitted; prior to the meeting if at all possible.

Sec'y. Noetzel also reported on his recent email exchange with City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass. Sec'y Noetzel requested a Legal Opinion on the Gender Requirement for the two currently opened (BOS Appointed) seats on the Commission, as there seems to be some question if BOTH vacancies must be filled by female veterans. Sec'y Noetzel reported that Mr. Snodgrass recently send him a Legal Opinion that clarifies the matter. In short, BOTH current Commission vacancies, must be filled by Board Appointed female veterans.

Sec'y. Noetzel also reported on the status of the VAC Website pages. Updating files with links to numerous agencies that service the needs of vets is a difficult. Up to 30% of links shown are no longer valid. The problem is that 'dead links' cannot be individually deleted from the list. Comm. Alfidi stated that the '311' Portal' on the City website might be a useful alternative, and perhaps we could wrap the Veterans Service portion of that system into the VAC Website pages. Sec'y Noetzel agreed to look into the prospect of doing so.

### Agenda Item 7 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

- A. <u>Veterans Employment</u>. Comm. THOMPSON (Lead) reports that statistics for Number of Veterans HIRED, as a result of the 5/11/11 JOB FAIR, will be announced at a EDD Leadership meeting on 15 August. He also reported on the difficulties of finding employment for veterans with criminal records.
- B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE. Comm. Ramirez announced that in his role as Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (for the S.F. VA Medical Center), he will be continuing to present his Veterans TOWN HALL MEETINGS in Room 207 of the Veterans building. The next Town Hall sessions will be on Wed. the 24\* of August (9-11am and 5-7pm); and every 4\* Wednesday of the month thereafter. He distributed FLYERS for the ongoing meetings and urged all Commissioners to attend when possible, and to spread the word to add additional agencies to make presentations.
- C. HOMELESS Veterans. Comm. Gibbs (lead) reports that the next "Stand-down" to provide on-site services for needy vets is planned for September of 2012, and will focus on services for "Post 911" era vets. The bi-annual event is in the planning stages. Donations and volunteers are needed. (See also, item 'E'. below).
- D. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Pres. R. WONG reminded the Commission that he had recently sent out an Email that provided a full review of current State and Federal legislation Involving veteran's issues. There was considerable discussion on a late development involving House Resolution 2055. By his introduction of 'Amendment #564' Senator COBURN seeks to institute stringent new requirements to the current 'Presumptive Causes' for 'Agent Orange' related disabilities and illness. Sec'y Noetzel proposed to DRAFT a new YAC RESOLUTION on this issue, to OPPOSE the restrictive Coburn Amendment, for presentation to the Commission as an AGENDA item for the next meeting. Pres. Wong agreed to this plan and stated that the Sept. meeting ACENDA will include consideration and opening ACTION on this important matter.

Comm. Baldonado then opened discussion on the Agenda Item regarding CA Assembly Bill 199 introduced by Flona Ma. Thrust of the bill is to encourage Social Science instruction on Public Schools (Grades 7-12) to include history of the significant role played by our Filipino allies in World War 2. Pres. Wong stated that the Bill has been introduced, but there is no legislative action on it yet.

Comm. Baldonado also reported that he was recently in Washington DC where Rep. Jackle Speler and Rep. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (from Hawaii) lobbled for support for HR210, the Filipino Veterans Falmess Act. He reported that Congresswoman Speler thanked the VAC for its role in initiating a strong Resolution in Support, passed by the S.F. Board of Supervisors and endorsed by Mayor Lee. Hopefully such Resolutions in Support will aid eventual passage of this important legislation.

Comm. Caldera opened discussion on CA Assembly Bill 201 regarding establishment of additional VETERAN'S COURTS in CA. He requested that VAC support for this legislation ALSO be added to the September VAC meetling Agenda. After further discussion, Comm. Caldera agreed to write a DRAFT LETTER in support of establishment of a San Francisco Veteran's Court (regardless of who funds it and regardless of whose jurisdiction it operates under). Pres. Wong agreed to place it on the Sept. meeting Agenda for full discussion and potential ACTION.

#### E. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS.

Comm. Critchlow reported that under jurisdiction of the AMVETS (a National Veteran's Advocacy Organization), a program to provide meals for San Francisco Homeless Veterans has been established. At present the program is operative every other SUNDAY, in Room 202 of the War Memorial Veteran's Building! She also reported that Safeway Stores has made an ongoing commitment to provide generous food donations for the program. Comm. Critchlow also reported that she will be a delegate at the upcoming National AMVETS Convention, in Washington D.C.

F. VETERANS PROJECTS. Sec'y Noetzel (lead) reported on development progress on project to determine VETERANS HIRING POLICIES within the Major S.F. Corporations. He has been in communicon with executives of J.P. Morgan/CHASE BANK regarding their development of a "Consortium" of TEN major US Corporations, in a joint- commitment to hire 100,000 veterans by the year 20201 Program Director Susan White reports that CHASE is still finalizing agreements with Consortium members and will announce names of Corporations Involved by next month. Also "several hundred" veterans have already been hired under the program. Full statistics also next month. Ms. White says that TYPES of jobs offered to vets vary from manual labor to technical and office skills, to entry level management positions. She said that within CHASE, they have found that one of the best "filts" for younger veterans is the position of Personal Banker, at Chase branches across the nation. She said that veterans do very well in this important Local Community Relations position, and at the same time it is an excellent career-path position for thems. Bhe also suggested that we direct veterans to their WEBSITE that is specifically designed to explain the Help to Veterans programs at Chase, including a direct link to Career Opportunities at Chase. The website address: yww.chasemilltary.com

G. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING. Comm. Caldera provided information on a new POLICY in force with respect to reserving space for events within the building. He reported that 'Building Management' has instituted new requirements for insurance, and a CONTRACT before space can be reserved for use by veterans and associated groups. Comm. Caldera requested that this issue be included on the AGENDA for the Sept. VAC meeting, for a full discussion and potential ACTION by the Commission. Pres. Wong agreed to add the issue as a September Agenda Item.

Pres. Wong then asked visiting War Memorial Building Commissioner Roger Dong to report on the current status of negotiations with Board of Trust with respect to apportionment of building space for VETERAN related use. Comm. Dong reported that the key to retention of Building Space for Veterans is our collective ability to develop programs, tenants, (like the new Veterans Resource Center), to produce a Building Space Volume that clearly demonstrates an ongoing need for retention of a significant percentage of Building space. He closed in the hope that the VAC will continue to develop programs (like Town Hall Meetings and Direct Services Programs to Student veterans and Homeless Veterans, that result in a permanent and significant increase in Building usage. Comm. Caldera then commented that current Board of Trust plans include a Building Space Allotment Plan that limits total space for Veterans activities to a mere17% of available square footage, after the scheduled retrofit.

## Agenda Item 8 - NEW BUSINESS

Pres. Wong opened discussion on Proposed Commission Rules for written communication, to include:

- Commissioners to have OPTION to be copied on all Commission Correspondence
  - Commission Communications go out under President and VP.
  - Requests to the City Attorneys office, Clerk of the Board and Mayors Office shall be approved by Commission President.
- Appointments as liaisons with veterans service organizations and other veterans support agencies and organizations to be made by the Commission President.

After Pres. Wong opened discussion on the initial item, Sec'y Noetzel displayed a print-out of his 10-page record of JULY Email correspondence with the Office of the Mayor. He explained that it is the practice of the Mayor's Office, as well as the Clerk of the BOS, to communicate with the SECRETARY of each Commission, as the PRIMARY COMMUNICATION CONTACT. He further explained that most of the Email volume involved mundane administrative subjects. Sec'y Noetzel further stated that if members of the Commission preferred to be "copied in" on the dozens of Email messages exchanged each month, he will be happy to add such Commissioners to the "Copy to" box of each such Email. In addition, Sec'y Noetzel insisted that he does indeed 'copy in' the Commission President, on ALL Email that is of a substantive, or Policy nature. Comm. Gruwell then made a distinction between Paid Secretaries' (on the "A-List" Commissions) and the Volunteer Secretaries (on Commissions such as the VAC). Sec'y Noetzel replied that he sees no such distinction in the pattern of Communication from City Officials. Comm. Gruwell stated that all appearance of inappropriate communication (between Secretary and City Officials) could be precluded if individual Commissioners could 'Opt-in' to be 'copied' on all communication.

At this point in the discussion, Comm. Caldera pointed out that neither the author of the (above) Agenda items (Comm. W. Levin), nor the City Attorney (Mr. Snodgrass) was present. Comm. Caldera then offered a Motion to Table the FIRST TREE items, on this account. The Motion was seconded by Comm. Gruwell. The VOTE TO TABLE was unanimous. Pres. Wong assured the Commission that these (three) items would also be added to the Sept. VAC meeting AGENDA.

Pres. Wong then opened discussion on the Appointment of individual Commissioners to serve as LEAD or LIAISON Commissioners for a variety of ongoing issues and projects that represent the recurring items on monthly VAC Meeting Agendas. Comm. Caldera offered a Motion to Authorize the Commission President to make such Liaison Appointments. Sec'y Noetzel seconded and the vote was unanimous. President Wong is authorized to make Liaison Appointments, at will. A list of issues/projects, and Liaison Commissioners then appointed by Pres. Wong follows:

- Comm. Eddle Ramirez accepted appointment as Liaison Commissioner for the VA Medical Facility at Ft, Miley.
- Comm. Alex Crichlow accepted appointment as Liaison Commissioner to AMVETS, and to the Order of Elks, and to Families of Veterans and Service members.
- Comm. Amber Rose accepted appointment as Liaison Commissioner to ALL "Post 9/11" Veterans Groups/Associations. (i.e. Campus & other).
- Comm. Gibbs accepted appointment as Liaison Commissioner for Incarcerated Veterans, and for Homeless Veterans Issues, and for the East Bay Stand-Down.
- Comm. Baldonado accepted appointment as Liaison Commissioner to the Filipino Veterans Community.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Aug. 1, 2011 Page 4 of 4

- Comm. Caldera accepted appointment as Llaison Commissioner to the American
- COVERNMENT

  COMM. Edwin Wilkerson, and Comm. Michael Thompson accepted dual

  Appointment as Lialson Commissioners on Veterans Employment Issues and for

  Liaison with Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Order of the Purple
  - Comm. Noetzel accepted appointment as Liaison Commissioner to Veterans for Peace, and as Liaison for the Corporate Veteran Hirling program.
  - Comm. Alfidl accepted appointment as Liaison for Active Duty Military Services.
     Comm. Dara Wong was appointed as Liaison to District 14, Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).
  - Comm. Levin was appointed (in absentia) as Llaison to American Legion Post 244.

## Agenda Item 9 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Comm. Caldera opened a discussion on a new Commission initiative around the upcoming FLEET WEEK In San Francisco. He suggested that Commissioners solicit vendors and businesses that they normally deal with 'on a day-to-day' basis, for the potential of offering FLEET WEEK DISCOUNTS. As an example, he reports that the Gym he uses (24-Hour Fitness) has offered FREE use of Gym Facilities and Equipment, to all visiting members of the Armed Forces, and to Veterans during Fleet Week. Comm. Caldera suggested that in the coming weeks, Commissioners solicit local businesses for similar Fleet Week Discounts, and further suggested that the Agenda for the September Meeting include a 'follow-up' item (under Goals/Plans) to review and publicize all such vendor donations.

Comm. Caldera then opened a discussion on Veterans Day, and the traditional VETERANS DAY PARADE, in San Francisco. He pointed out that since the demise of Comm. Champaign (who organized the Parade for the past several decades), no one has 'stepped up' to take a leadership role to plan and organize this event, In short, if no one on this Commission steps-up to lead this event, there will likely be no Veterans Day Parade in San Francisco, for the first time in over 50-years. Comm. Ramirez suggested establishment of a 'Continuity Book' to insure that major traditions can be more easily preserved.

Agenda Item 10 - OLD BUSINESS None for this meeting; or covered elsewhere.

## Agenda Item 11 - Announcements

SEP 2 9 7011

Comm. Critchlow introduced a "Signing of the Covenant" program, whereby Agency's, Organizations and Individuals commit to furthering the interests of Veterans of Service to America. The program is just in its inception, and a Development Meeting is set for 18 Aug. She will have a further report on the program in September.

Comm. Caldera offered 3 announcements, specifically:

1. On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, a 'Celebration of Life' event to commemorate recent passing of ARCH WILSON who recently passed. Mr. Wilson was a champion for veterans issues and a Founding member of American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post 448. The Event is set for start at 1:00pm, in room 207 of the War Memorial Veteran's Building.

- 2. In commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11/01, a number of patriotic organizations are planning Memorial events. Among these, the Mayor's Office (working with 'Hands Across America') will be making announcement of related events and activities. Commissioners are encouraged to particle as appropriate.
- 3. On Sunday the 18th of September, American Legion Post 315 will host its 2nd Annual Luau in the Veteran's Building. The 'Welcome Event' is opened to all area veterans and their families.

Comm. Rose announced that on Friday, the  $26^{th}$  of August, the group 'VETS STRONG' will host a Young Vets Service Expo, from 4-7pm at City College.

Guest Roger Dong announced that FREE TICKETS for the September 7th Full Dress Rehearsal of the World Première Opera HEART OF A SOLDIER, are available to Veterans and their guests via an ORDER FORM on the MARINES MEMORIAL WEBSITE.

Pres. Wong announced that he will be out of town for the September VAC meeting (scheduled for the SECOND Monday In September, i.e. September 12, 2011), and that he has appointed Past President Wally Levin to Chair that meeting. All additional requests for Agenda Items for the September VAC meeting, should be forwarded directly to Commissioner Levin.

### Agenda Item 12 - Honors Report, Moment of Slience, Adjournment

In memory of American Armed Services members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed service community, and for this particular meeting, in memory of our comrade, ARCHIBALD WILSON. After Moment of Silence observance, the meeting was AJORNED at 8:15pm

Minutes of the 8/1/11 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED (as amended) at the VAC Meeting of September 12, 2011 .

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, September 12, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Acting Chair: Commissioner WALLACE LEVIN (In the absence of Pres. Wong who is attending reunion of his ship, the USS Tower Assoc. of which he is President)

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval
4. REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval
a. Review of Sec'y Noetze's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 1 August, 2011

- 5. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).
- 6. Officers REPORTS:

A. Chairman's Report. Comm. Levin to report on:

Veterans Day Parade, 2011....planning & volunteer opportunities

- Endorsement for Design Selection for Veterans Memorial Project, including potential ACTION on Advisory Letter of Support to Mayor and BOS.
- B. Secretary's Report: Sec'v Noetzel will report on VAC Website Pages and issues.
- 7. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

A. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Dual Liaison(s) Comm. Thompson and Comm. Wilkerson to report on latest developments in this area Including Report on 8/15/11 Meeting to review results of the JOB FAIR in May.

- B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.
  - > Liaison, Comm. Critchlow to report on Veterans Health Care Exercise Program, including potential ACTION on Advisory Letter of Support to Mayor and BOS.
  - > Liaison Comm. Critchlow to report on 'Signing of the Covenant' Program and further developments after 8/18/11 meeting on the project.
  - > Liaison, Comm. Ramirez to report on his ongoing series of TOWN HALL MEETINGS in Veterans Building, including report on meeting of 8/24/11 and plans for future meetings, including potential ACTION on Advisory Letter of Support to Mayor and BOS.
- C. HOMELESS Veterans, (Note: Liaison Comm. Gibbs not available due to medical issues). Comm. Critchlow to report on ongoing AMVETS program to provide meals for San Francisco Homeless Veterans every other SUNDAY, in Room 202 of the War Memorial Veteran's Building.
- 8. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.
  - A. Chairman Levin to report on status of CA Assembly BIII 199, introduced by Fiona Ma, which encourages Public Schools (Grades 7-12) to include Social Science instruction on the history of the significant role played by our Filipino allies in WWII. Discussions on this item may include ACTION to support AB-199.
  - B. Comm. Caldera to report on CA Assembly Bill 201 regarding establishment of additional VETERAN'S COURTS in California, including Gov. Brown's recent VETO of proposed legislation as a purported Budget Cutting Measure - even against evidence that establishment of such courts REDUCE overall State expense. Discussions on this issue may include ACTION on Advisory Letter in Support of establishment of additional Veterans Courts.
  - C. Sec'y Noetzel to report on the current status of 'House Resolution 2055, and in particular, Senator Coburn's 'Amendment #564' which would institute stringent new requirements to the current 'Presumptive Causes' for 'Agent Orange' related disabilities and illness. Sec'y Noetzel will present his proposed DRAFT a new VAC RESOLUTION to OPPOSE the restrictive Coburn Amendment, which may include potential ACTION on this important matter.

- D. Comm. Levin to report on CA Senate Bill 888, introduced by Sen. Ted Lieu of Torrence. The Bill introduces reasonable limitations on protests and demonstrations at funerals for military personnel. Discussions on this issue may include ACTION on AdVisory Letter in Support of this legislation.
- 9. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS.

Comm. Critchlow to report on the recent AMVETS National Convention, to which she was a delegate.

10. VETERANS PROJECTS

Liaison Comm. NOETZEL, to report on progress on project to contact Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.

- 11. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
  - A. Comm. Caldera to report on his investigation of Restrictive New Policies with respect to reserving space for Veterans Related and Patriotic events within the building, including arbitrary new requirements for insurance, and a CONTRACT before space can be reserved. Also, further discussions on current status of negotiations with Board of Trustees with respect to apportionment of building space for VETERAN related use.
  - B. Comm. Alfidi to provide review of World Première performances of new Opera: HEART OF A SOLDIER, and related activities during recent past.
- 12. NEW Business:

Chairman Levin to lead discussion on Proposed Commission Rules for written communication, to include:

- i. Commissioners to have OPTION to be copied on all Commission Correspondence
- ii. Commission Communications go out under President and VP.
- Requests of the City Attorneys office, Clerk of the Board and Mayors Office shall be approved by Commission President.
- 13. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Comm. Caldera to lead discussion regarding VAC Support for FLEET WEEK in San Francisco (Oct. 6-11, 2011), including proposal to endorse and promote discounts by local businesses and vendors for visiting Armed Services Personnel and Veterans, including potential ACTION on Call for Support to Fleet Week Leadership via Mayor's office.

14. OLD BUSINESS

(Review of) 9/11 'Day of Remembrance' event at War Memorial Veterans Building and 'Hands On Bay Area' volunteer activities.

- 15. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Alghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and armed services community.
- 16. A JORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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#### PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public records are covered under that State of California Brown Act, as well that the SUNSHINE ORDINANCE of the City of San Francisco. The 'Sunshine Act' assures that deliberations of City Business are conducted "before the people", and that City operations are open to the people's review.

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## DISABILITY ACCESS

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Sep. 12, 2011

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by Acting President Wallace Levin at 6:05pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, led by guest Glen Raswyck.

### Agenda item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Gruwell, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Rose, Thompson, Wilkerson, (11)

Absent: Commissioner(s): Comm. J. Guglielmoni, (medical issues), Comm. G. Gibbs (knee surgery), Comm. Ray Wong, and Comm. Dara Wong (out of town on business)

Attending Guests: Col. (Ret.) David Adams, Deborah Dacumos, Jack Jacoby, Glen "Raz" Raswyck, Jordan Towers, Jerom Vahai. City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also in attendance.

### Agenda item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

The Meeting AGENDA was reviewed. MOTION to accept Agenda, as written (Comm. Wilkerson 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Caldera). Without further discussion, meeting AGENDA, was passed unanimously.

#### Agenda item 4 - Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the August 1, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) was reviewed. Comm. Caldera offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as written (2<sup>rd</sup>. Comm. Ramirez). In discussion, Comm. Rose suggested correction of her Liaison title to include "all "post-9/11/01 vererans groups". Discussion ended after general agreement. Vote was held and the August, 2011 Meeting Minutes, (as amended) passed unanimously.

## Agenda item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

- Meeting guest Col. Deborah Dacumos (Ret.) once again introduced herself gave a brief review of her background and announced that she has offered her Application for appointment to the VAC. Comm. Noetzel then announced that the BOS Rules Committee will be considering applications to the VAC at it's meeting of 9/15/11 and encouraged all to attend to support the nomination of Col Dacumos.
- > Meeting guest Jordan Towers (a Swords-to-Plowshares staffer), re-introduced himself and repeated his interest in supporting and working with the Commission.
- supporting and working with the Commission.

  > Meeting guest David Adams, (active with AMVETS activities in the Bay Area) introduced himself and expressed his support for Commission projects in support of veterans.
- > Meeting guest Jack Jacoby (President of City College Veterans Alliance), introduced himself and repeated his interest in supporting and working with the Commission.
- September of the superior o

## Agenda item 6 - Officers Reports

#### A - Chairman's Report - VETERANS DAY PARADE.

Commissioner/Chairman Levin started with an explanation of the history and background of the Veterans' Day Parade in San Francisco, including the many years that Comm. Reni Champagne organized and ran the parade. As a result of the recent demise of Comm. Campaign, followed by the death of his wife, Margaret, the primary records and expertise for Parade Organization were lost. Comm. Levin stepped in and worked to 'revive' the parade for this November. He located all available organization information. The net result is that for the first time, the Veterans Day Parade will be held on Veterans Day, specifically, on Friday, 11 November. Comm. Levin then introduced meeting guest and former VAC Commissioner Glen 'Raz' Raswyck who had past experience with some elements of event. Comm. Levin delegated to "Raz", many of the 'nuts and bolts' elements of parade organization, including administration of the Unit Sign-up procedure, and Security elements of the parade. Raz then addressed the Commission and explained all relevant elements of parade participation, including a plea for volunteers to serve as Parade Marshals, and or Monitors to guide and control the parade as it moves, for the first time, through traffic, from 2" Street, up Market Street, and to the Review Stand at City Hall. "Boots on the Ground" Volunteers are encouraged to contact RAZ directly, via email to: Fisteries5@yahoo.com

## Chairman's Report - VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT.

Comm. Levin quickly reviewed the process that led to the selection of the Final design of the Memorial. Sec'y Noetzel then read aloud his DRAFT of a letter of Endorsement for the winning design (i.e. the "Passage of Remembrance" design proposal by artists Susan Narduli and Andrea Cochran). A motion to approve the Noetzel draft was made by Comm. Alfidi (2", Comm. Caldera). Absent further discussion, a vote was held and the motion passed unanimously. The letter will be mailed to the Mavor and all appropriate Memorial Protect leadership personnel.

## B - Secretary's Report.

Sec'y. Noetzel also reported on the current status of the VAC Website, which he has recently UPDATED to indicate (on the EVENTS page), announcements about the 10th Anniversary of 9/11/01 memorial activities, as well as a permanent announcement about the monthly VETERANS TOWN HALL MEETINGS that Comm. Ramirez has organized. Commissioners were encouraged to review the website at least monthly to see changes/updates as they are posted.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Sept. 12, 2011 Page 2 of 4

### Agenda item 7 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

A - Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Dual Liaison Commissioners (Thompson & Wilkerson) deferred to report by Comm. Ramirez who reported on his recent (Town Hall) seminar: "How to Get Federal Government Job". His presentation on this topic was also given the several Bay Area EDD offices. He also reported that the VA Med Center in San Francisco recently hired several veterans.

## B - Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

- > Liaison, Comm. Critchlow reported on the WHOLE VETS program that she has been working on with AMVETS for some time now. The program involves a complete Veterans Health Care Program, including tangible help in areas of nutrition, and healing support for mind, body and spirit. After her presentation Comm. Noetzel made motion (2". Comm. Rose) that the VAC enthuslastically ENDORSES the Whole Vets Program, and lends all available support for its development as a community service to veterans. With minimal added discussion a VOTE was held, and the ENDORSEMENT MOTION passed unanimously. From this point Comm. Critchlow will work on development of a Letter to the Mayor, advising support for this valuable program from the City of San Francisco. Possible action on same at the next VAC meeting.
- > Comm. Critchlow also reported on the 'Signing of the Covenant' Program, another new initiative currently targeting government and corporate leaders to participate in a 'Signed Covenant' to dedicate their work to the highest ideals of Service to the Community. She and others are working to develop a major Signing of the Covenant EVENT at the vets building some time in the next few months. Further reports at next VAC meeting.
- Comm. Ramirez reported on his monthly series of TOWN HALL MEETINGS in the Veterans Building, He reports that after 3 months, interest and participation in the Town Hall Meeting concept is growing. On the Service Provider side he has hosted presentations by State and Federal Government agencies, and Service Providers like Swords to Plowshares. He reports that with publicity from AMVETS and leadership of the new Veterans Resource Center, he's now seeing 15-30 Veterans in attendance, a significant increase over 6-8 vets at the initial meetings. Comm. Alfdid offered advice that additional publicity and a marketing program was needed to spread the word on the Town Hall concept to the vets community. A motion was made by Comm. Caldera (2" by Comm. Gruwell) that the VAC enthuslastically ENDORSES the Town Hall Meeting Program, and lends all available support for its development as a community service to veterans. With minimal added discussion a VOTE was held, and the ENDORSEMENT MOTION passed unanimously.
- C <u>HOMELESS Veterans</u>, (Note: Liaison Comm. Gibbs not available due to medical issues).

  Comm. Critchlow reported on the ongoing AMVETS program which currently provides meals for San Francisco Homeless Veterans every other SUNDAY, in Room 202 of the War Memorial Veteran's Building. She reported that approx. 30 homeless vets were provided with meals during the last Meals for Vets event on 9/11/11. Food is provided via donations from SAFEWAY, and from AMVETS.

## Agenda item 8 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION

- A. Chairman Levin reported on status of CA Assembly Bill 199, introduced by Flona Ma, which encourages Public Schools (Grades 7-12) to Include Social Science Instruction on the history of the significant role played by our Filipino allies in WWII. A motion was made by Comm. Baldonado (2<sup>rd</sup> by Comm. Wilkerson) that the VAC enthuslastically ENDORSE the passage of AB199, including a LETTER (to Mayor and BOS, w/ copy to Fiona Ma), urging City Government SUPPORT for this worthy legislation. With minimal added discussion a VOTE was held, and the ENDORSEMENT MOTION passed unanimously. Secretary to follow up with production of said letter.
- B. Comm. Caldera reported on CA Assembly Bill 201 regarding establishment of additional VETERAN'S COURTS in California, including Gov. Brown's recent VETO of proposed legislation as a purported Budget Cutting Measure. Comm. Caldera submitted for consideration a DRAFT RESOLUTION on the matter. The 10-point Resolution covers the history, need and advantages of the Veterans Court program and urges the City Government of San Francisco to "utilize all possible influence" to support passage of this legislation. A motion was made by Comm. Noetzel (2° by Comm. Baldonado) that the VAC enthuslastically PASS this RESOLUTION, and attach it with LETTER (to Mayor and BOS) With minimal added discussion a VOTE was held, and the MOTION passed unanimously. The Secretary was instructed to produce a Cover Letter to transmit the Resolution to the Mayor and BOS with copies to legislation author (CA District 53 Assembly member Betsy Butler), and copies to Presiding Judge Feinstein, as well as to Swords to Prowshares as they have also been supporting of this legislation.
- C. Sec'y Noetzel reported on the current status of 'House Resolution 2055, and in particular, Senator Coburn's highly objectionable 'Amendment #564' which would institute stringent new requirements to the current 'Presumptive Causes' for 'Agent Orange' related disabilities and illness. Sec'y Noetzel reported on his extensive research on the status of Amendment 564 and recommends that the Commission DOES NOT, at this time, take action on this matter since:
  - 1. In a recent Senate vote, the amendment was soundly defeated by members of both parties (69-30), and
  - The overall Appropriation bill (HR2055) Is now In Committee, to negotiate expenditure elements, including VA, and
     Leaders of the Joint Committee, including the author of HR2055 (Rep. John Culberson, R. TX) have no intention of
- Including any elements of the destructive Coburn Amendment into the final Bill. In summation, Sec'y Noetzel reports that the current "Presumptive Causes' status of Agent Orange Medical & Disability Benefits are no longer in danger of reduction, for budget cutting, or any other reason.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Sept. 12, 2011 Page 3 of 4

Sec'y Noetzel then made a Motion to Table this issue (2nd Comm. Wilkerson). With minimal added discussion a VOTE was held, and the MOTION to TABLE passed unanimously. No further action required at this time.

D. Comm. Levin reported on CA Senate Bill 888, introduced by Sen. Ted Lieu of Torrence. The Bill introduces reasonable limitations on protests and demonstrations at funerals for military personnel. Comm. Levin reported that despite sailing through BOTH houses of California Legislative bodies (almost unanimously), the measure was VETOED, by Governor BROWN as he believed that despite its positive elements, it is likely an infringement on Hight to Free Speech and Assembly, and in his view, unconstitutional. A motion was made by Comm. Noetzel (2<sup>rd</sup> by Comm. Thompson) that the VAC enthusiastically *endorse passage of this legislation* by whatever means necessary, and to express such endorsement via a Letter of Advice from the Commission, to the Mayor and BOS. With minimal added discussion a VOTE was held, and the MOTION passed unanimously. The Secretary was instructed to author a Letter of Advice to the Mayor, and BOS (with Copy to Sen. LIEU) urging support for passage of this important legislation; whether by an Over-ride to the Governor's veto, or via revised legislation that would include similar elements.

#### Agenda item 9 - NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS.

Comm. Critchlow reported on the recent AMVETS National Convention, to which she was a delegate. The St. Louis convention featured primary speaker Eric K. Shinseki, (Secretary, Dept. of Veterans Affairs), who reiterated his commitment to his three key priorities, namely; Increase Veteran access to VA benefits and services now; reduce and, ultimately, eliminate the backlog in disability claims in 2014; and finally, end Veterans homelessness by 2015.

### Agenda item 10 - VETERANS PROJECTS.

Liaison Comm. NOETZEL, reported on progress on project to encourage Major S.F. Corporations to hire more veterans. He reported on a recent conversation with V.P. Susan White, of J.P.Morgan/Chase Bank, wherein she provided the names of the ten "Consortium Partner Firms" which, together with Chase, have made public commitment to the hiring of 100,000 veterans by the year 2020. Send letters on behalf of the President.

## Agenda Item 11 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

- A. Comm. Caldera reported on his investigation of Restrictive New Policies with respect to reserving space for Veterans Related and Patriotic events within the building, including arbitrary new requirements for Insurance, and a CONTRACT before space can be reserved. Comm. Caldera displayed two documents in use for reserving space in the War Memorial Veterans Building. The first document (created by Building House Manager Beth Murray) has been in use for some months. The second is a new 3-page document created by Jamie Lopez. It includes severe additional new requirements with regard to Liability Insurance, as a condition of use of space in the building. Comm. Levin expressed opinion that such new requirements may have been instituted by building managers who oppose expanded use of the building for certain new activities, even if they may be beneficial to veterans or the veterans community. Comm. Ramirez spoke of his difficulties in reserving space in the building for his monthly Town Hall meetings. explaining that he was only able to avoid the severe new insurance requirements because the meetings are an extension of his duties as a Federal Employee, Comm. Rose expressed opinion that the concerns of the VAC on the new Building Use Requirements can be, and should be formally addressed, in correspondence to the War Memorial Commission, the Mayor, the BOS. Comm. Caldera suggested that a VAC sub-committee be formed to investigate this issue, Comm. Levin suggested that a letter (to express our concerns) to the ALWMC be drafted, and that ALWMC President Nelson Lum be invited to a future VAC meeting to discuss these issues with the VAC. Comm. Caldera and Comm. Noetzel offered to work together to DRAFT such a letter. The matter was then tabled, with intent to continue discussion in the October VAC meeting
- B. Comm. Alfidi reported on the World Première performances of new Opera: HEART OF A SOLDIER. In recounting the basic story line of the Opera, Comm. Alfidi asserted that the story of Opera Hero Rick Rescorla is a parallel for what we are trying to accomplish as a Commission; namely to promote the idea that the training, dedication and patriotism of veterans, is a direct advantage to society in general. It is the reason that veterans make superior employees, in every vocation. Comm. Alfidi announced that there are deep discounts available to Veterans and military families, for the matinee performance of 'HEART' for Saturday afternoon, the 24th of Sept.

#### Agenda item12 - NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Levin offered to DELETE this item from the current Agenda as it is now 'moot' owing to clear new voluntary correspondence policies agreed to between Secretary Noetzel and the Commission. Such policies include:

- All official VAC correspondence shall be either SIGNED by the President OR (if not practical) signed by the sender AFTER a printed signature bloc "For the President".
  - Other than ordinary "housekeeping" matters, Correspondence to the office of the Mayor, or BOS, or City Attorney, (etc) shall include a "COPY TO" the VAC President.
  - c. All VAC Commissioners shall have the OPTION to be copied on Commission Correspondence.

## Agenda item13 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Comm. Caldera opened discussion regarding VAC Support for FLEET WEEK in San Francisco (Oct. 6-11, 2011). He

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Sept. 12, 2011 Page 4 of 4

reported that he sent 2 Emails to Fleet Week Chairman Gen. Mike Myatt, regarding promotion of an offer by "24-Hour Fitness Center(s)" to provide free use of their facilities to Military Personnel during Fleet Week. He reported that he was disappointed that he had received no response with respect to this offer. Comm. Levin explained that Gen. Myatt has Command and Control of all Fleet week arrangements, and could only suggest that Comm. Caldera continue to attempt contact with the office of Gen. Myatt, via phone calls and follow-up email. Comm. Caldera said he will continue follow-up, and requested that the item again be placed on the October 3 Meeting Agenda for a status review.

#### Agenda item14 - OLD BUSINESS

The specific Agenda item was a Review of the 9/11 'Day of Remembrance' events at War Memorial Veterans Building and the associated 'Hands On Bay Area' (HOBA) volunteer activities planned. Guest JORDAN TOWER (of Swords to Plowshares) reported that the 'Remembrance Event' had excellent local TV coverage, and numerous volunteers (including veterans) participated clean-up activities in the Civic Center area, and made up Care Packages to be distributed to local veterans in need. Much of the volunteer efforts came through the new Veterans Resource Center in the WM Veterans Building. Comm. Caldera reported that on 9/11/11 the counted over 300 such 'Care Packages' being prepared for distribution to needy area veterans, and the AMVETS group was serving afternoon meals to homeless veterans in room 202 of the War Memorial Veterans Building.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaking on behalf of War Memorial Building Commissioner Roger Dong, Comm. Alfidi distributed a 4-page document that publicized the recent opening of the VRC (Veterans Resource Center), in room 205.

Comm. Caldera announced that on Sunday afternoon the 18th of September, American Legion Post 315 will be hosting the 2th Annual LUAU and PIG ROAST PARTY, In room 215 of the Veterans building. He extended a warm welcome to all Commissioners and area veterans to attend this celebration.

#### Agenda item15 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence

In specific memory of (recently passed) former Commissioner Arch WILSON, Former Commissioner Renie CHAMPAIGN and his wife Margaret Champaign, as well as in memory of all American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Alghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### Agenda item16 - AJORNMENT

The VAC General Meeting of 9/12/11 was Adjourned, by Acting Chair Commissioner Wallace Levin, at 8:08pm.

Minutes of the 9/12/11 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED at the VAC Meeting of October 3, 2011

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

OCT 26 2011

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

1:40p. n mst

City & County of San Francisco
War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, October 3, 2011 MEETING AGENDA President Raymond Wong, Presiding

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

SEP 2 9 2011

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval
 REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval
 Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 12 September, 2011

- 5. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).
  - 6. WELCOME to New Commissioner Col.(Ret.) Deborah Dacumos AN, PhD. President WONG, and Sec'y Noetzel to introduce & welcome our newly appointed Commissioner.
  - NEW Business President to recommend EXECUTIVE SESSION..... as Commission Member wishes to address the Commission on a highly confidential personal matter. Procedures for Executive Session will be announced by Sec'y Noetzel.
- 8. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report; President Ray Wong to report on: Conventions/conferences attended, and more.
  - Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on:
     VAC Website CHANGES and issues VAC Correspondence since last meeting
- 9. Current VETERANS PROJECTS
  - > Liaison and Event Organizer Comm. W. Levin to report on VETERANS DAY PARADE (Scheduled for 11/11/11).
  - > Liaison Comm. NOETZEL, to report on progress on project to contact Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.
  - 10. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

A. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Dual Liaison(s), Comm. Thompson, and Comm. Wilkerson, to report on latest developments in this area, including Report on 8/15/11 Meeting to review results of the JOB FAIR in May.

B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

- > Liaison, Comm. Critchlow to report on Veterans Health Care Exercise Program, including potential ACTION on Advisory Letter of Support to Mayor and BOS.
- Liaison Comm. Critchlow to report on 'Signing of the Covenant' Program and plans for organizing a major Program Kick-off and Covenant Signing EVENT, at Veterans Building.
- > Liaison, Comm. Ramirez to report on his ongoing series of TOWN HALL MEETINGS in Veterans Building. including report the September meetings (AM and PB sessions of meetings on 9/28/11).
- C. HOMELESS Veterans, (Note: Liaison Comm. Gibbs not available due to medical issues). Comm. Critchlow to report on ongoing AMVETS program to provide meals for San Francisco Homeless Veterans every other SUNDAY, in Room 202 of the War Memorial Veteran's Building.
- 11. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.
  - A. Status Report on Issues that were subject of VAC letters to City Government of San Francisco, on several Legislative issues (as defined by Sec'y Noetzel in his Report on VAC Correspondence).
  - B. Open Forum on new or Legislation of interest to Veterans, including potential impact of recent repeal of DADT. Discussion on media fabrication of the term "The San Francisco Military", with possible vote on ACTION to advise City of S.F. Government on this divisive term of derision.

## 12. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

- > Comm. Caldera to report on further developments in his investigation of Restrictive New Policies with respect to reserving space for Veterans Related and Patriotic events within the building, including presentation of a DRAFT of a proposed letter to address the new requirements for insurance, and a CONTRACT before space can be reserved. Item includes potential ACTION to include approval for forwarding of subject LETTER.
- > Discussion on efforts to promote IAVA "Smart Job Fair" in Green Room of War Memorial Veterans Building on Thursday, 6 October 2011

## 13. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Comm. Caldera to lead continuing discussion regarding VAC Support for FLEET WEEK in San Francisco (Oct. 6-11, 2011), including results of the Commissioners further attempts to contact Fleet Week Events Director Gen. Mike Myatt regarding promotion of discounts by local businesses and vendors for visiting Armed Services Personnel and Veterans. Item includes cotential ACTION including Letter of inquiry to Gen. Myatt.

- 14. OLD BUSINESS, No items listed at publication of Agenda.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities
  in near future.
- 16. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

## 17. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email <a href="mailto:noetzel@pacbell.net">noetzel@pacbell.net</a> or telephone 415-378-8214

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MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5th Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

#### DISABILITY ACCESS

The War Memorial Veterans Building (between Grove & McAllister Streets) is wheelchair accessible via front entrance (401 Van Ness). There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Oct. 3, 2011

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Raymond Wong at 6:05pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, led by new Commissioner, Col. Deborah Dacumos.

## Agenda item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gruwell, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Thompson, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong. (13)

Absent: Commissioner(s): Comm. J. Guglielmoni, (medical issues), Comm. G. Gibbs (knee surgery), Comm. A. Rose (excused, calender conflict).

Attending Guests: Roger Dong, Amos Gregory, Maria Lazar, Nelson Lum, Justine Sharrock, Kim Stryder, and Javier Tenorio. City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also in attendance.

## Agenda item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

The Meeting AGENDA was reviewed. Motion was made by Comm. Noetzel to strike all wording after "New Business" (Item 7) of the printed Agenda, as the Commission has recently been advised that the issue slated for Executive session (on Agenda) does not meet legal criteria to hold an Executive Session, (2". By Comm. Ramirez). City Attorney Snodgrass then explained the limitations of Executive Session, informing the Commission that a confidential personal matter does not meet the legal requirement. A vote was then taken and the Motion to Strike Item 7 of the printed Agenda passed. The Agenda, as revised, was then approved.

## Agenda item 4 - Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the September 12, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Spelling corrections were offered by Comm. Crichlow. Comm. Caldera then offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as corrected (2\*\*- Comm. Gruwell). In a subsequent Vote the September 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

## Agenda item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

- Meeting guest Kim Stryder of the S.F. Arts Commission introduced herself and spoke of the role of the Arts Commission as the Guardian of the Public Art of the city. She said that the Arts Commission welcomes new artists including art produced by Veterans (such as meeting guest Amos Gregory). Comm. Levin questioned Ms. Stryder about care and preservation of the Gallery of Historic Art depicting the contributions of San Francisco military units in the various conflicts of this nation.
- Meeting guest Maria Lazar of the S.F. Opera introduced herself and reviewed the recent successful merging of the Opera and Veteran's communities via special opportunities to attend the new HEART OF A SOLDIER opera, recently premièred in the city. She expressed her hope that interest in Opera might continue to grow, within the Veterans Community. Comm. Noetzel spoke of the value of merging with the Arts Community in Common Cause and working together for Reasonable Accommodation with respect to building use in the future.
- Meeting Guest Justine Sharrock introduced herself. She is a reporter for the Internet Magazine BOLD ITALIC, and writing a piece on veterans of recent US conflicts.

## Agenda item 6 - Welcome to New Commissioner Col.(Ret.) Deborah Dacumos AN, PhD.

Secretary Noetzel formally introduced new Commissioner Deborah Dacumos. Her appointment to VAC Seat #5 (for the remaining portion of a term ending 1/31/14) was finalized by the BOS on 9/27/11. Sec'y Noetzel distributed a new Confidential Roster (of current VAC members) with full contact into, including Col. Dacumos. He also presented Col. Dacumos with the new VAC Orientation Packet, which includes new business cards, a copy of the VAC Bylaws, the Annual Report and minutes of recent meetings. Comm. Dacumos thanked the Commission for a warm welcome and reiterated her interest in working with the VAC as an active participant in the future.

Agenda item 7 - NEW Business - No New Business items.

## Agenda Item 8 - Officers Reports

## A - President's Report -

President Wong started with a report on his travels last month, including a trip to San Antonio for the VFW Annual Convention, as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of the USS TOWERS, on which he served. He and Comm. Dara Wong also attended 9/11 Commemoration Ceremonies in Roswell, Georgia. Finally, at the end of a long road trip, they attended a Ladies Auxiliary VFW meeting in Sacramento, CA.

### B - Secretary's Report.

Sec'y. Noetzel reported on the current status of the VAC Website, which continues to attract more 'hist' every month. He announced that the VAC website is now attracting inquiries from Employers who are looking for Veterans to apply for job openings, and that in the past month he has referred two such Employment opportunities to the VRC and Swords to Plowshares for veterans to pursue. Sec'y Noetzel also reported on Official Correspondence initiated by the VAC as mandated in previous VAC meetings, including Letters of Advice to S.F. City Government as follows:

#### (Continued from previous page) Agenda item 8b Secretary's Report.

9/27/11 Letter; Subject: CA Assembly Bill 199 to advocate for Curriculum Inclusion of WWII Filipino effort,

9/26/11 Letter; Subject: CA Senate Bill 888 - Protection Against Picketing at Military Funerals.

9/19/11 Letter; Subject: Assembly Bill 201 to advocate for establishment of Veterans Courts.

9/14/11 Letter: Subject: Endorsement of Design Selection for Veterans Memorial Project

A discussion then ensued regarding the lack of CENTRAL FOCAL POINT for Job Opportunities. Comm. Levin suggested that the new VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER might take on such responsibility. Comm. Noetzel promised to follow-up with the VRC leadership on establishment of an interactive Job Offer Database at the VRC.

## Agenda item 9 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS

Liaison and Parade Coordinator Comm. W. Levin reported on status of the VETERANS DAY PARADE (Scheduled for 11/11/11). He reiterated that former VAC Commissioner Glen "Raz" Raswyck is still seeking Volunteers to serve as Parade Marshals. He circulated a SIGN UP SHEET for Parade Day Volunteers. He also distributed additional copies of the Parade Announcement/Invitation, which indicates a 'deadline' of 10/17/11 for Unit Participation Applications.

Comm. Levin then introduced Parade Executive Chairman Javier Tenorio, a 'GWOT' veteran employed by Wells Fargo. Mr. Terino stated that the bank will provide 'some manopwer' and a float' in support the parade. He said his primary effort is to coordinate with veterans clubs and groups at all area Colleges and Universities to gain their participation in the parade.

Comm. Ramirez asked if there will be a Volunteers Coordinating Meeting prior to the parade. Comm. Noetzel suggested that the VAC meeting of 117/711 might serve as the Final Coordinating Meeting to resolve any last minute items. Mr. Tenorio committed to attending the 11/7 meeting.

Liaison Comm. NOETZEL, reported on progress on project to contact. Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations to encourage the hiring of Veterans. He reported that he was able to contact Human Resources personnel from four S.F. Corporations, specifically to invite their participation in the IAVA VETERANS JOB FAIR scheduled in the Green Room, for Thursday. 11/6/11.

## Agenda item 10 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

## A - Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Laison Comm. Thompson reported that the next Calif. EDD Sponsored JOB FAIR is scheduled for MAY of 2012, and is in the early planning stages. Comm. Ramirez pointed out a need for coordination ofJob-finding efforts of various agencies, and suggested the new Veterans Resource Center might serve as a "hub' for info from all sources. (As suggested in item 8b, above).

### B - Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Liaison, Comm. Crichlow reported on the WHOLE VETS program that she has been developing under sponsorship by AMVETS. The program is expertly described in a VIDEO presentation that she will make available for all to view. While the VAC has already voted to endorse the program, she and Comm. Noetzel are working on a formal Resolution Document which describes the program in full, for potential ACTION as a Letter of Advice to the City Government at the next VAC meeting.

Comm. Crichlow also reported on the 'Signing of the Covenant' Program, a new initiative inviting government and corporate leaders to participate in a 'Signed Covenant' to dedicate their work to the highest ideals of Service to the Community. She and others are working to develop a major "Signing of the Covenant EVENT" for MARCH of 2012, (at the Veterans Building) is now in planning and development stages. She hopes to have FLYERS and additional information by the next VAC meeting.

Comm. Ramirez reported on his monthly series of TOWN HALL MEETINGS in the Veterans Building, stating that attendance and participation continues to grow. At his 9/28/11 Town Hall Sessions, there were 30-40 participants in the Morning Session (mostly Vendors and Service Providers), while the evening session produced more veterans. He is seeking ways to insure that Service Providers, and Service Users (i.e. Vets) can merge in more efficient ways.

## C - HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Crichlow reported on the ongoing AMVETS program currently providing meals for San Francisco Homeless Veterans every SUNDAY, in the War Memorial Veteran's Building. Meals are served to Veterans in Room 202 or elsewhere in the building between 10am and 5pm. Food is provided and prepared by volunteers, and currently up to 30 Homeless Veterans are led each Sunday. Comm. Noetzel suggested the program was now mature enough for a continuing announcement on the VAC Webste. He will work with Comm. Crichlow to develop such an announcement.

## Agenda item 11 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION

A. Sec'y Noetzel reported that there has been no specific response, as yet, to the Letters of Advice that the VAC sent to Mayor Lee and key legislators on various pending legislation of interest to the veterans community, however Comm. Baldonado reported that there are now some Sixty-Six (66) Co-Signers to HR210, the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act, and that momentum for this important legislation continues to build.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of October 3, 2011 Page 3 of 4

### (Continued from previous page) Agenda item 11 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION

B. An Open Forum on the impact of the recent repeal of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' (DADT) rules opened with discussion on the recent media fabrication of the term "The San Francisco Military". Comm. Calders atset hat he for one, was highly offended by the recent media inference that the military is becoming a 'Gay Army' under the ridiculous conclusion that the City of San Francisco is representative as a "model for a new (gay) military. He suggested that a letter be written to Elaine Donnely of the Center for Military Readiness who recently made the offensive remarks for media publication. President Wong offered advice that it might be inappropriate for the Commission to take direct action in this case as that would be outside our role as Advisors to the City. Comm. Afflid suggested that a more effective protest might for Commanders of American Legion Posts that find the term offensive, to write to Ms. Donnely. The discussion ended with Comm. Caldera agreeing to pursue the matter via correspondence form him as Commander of an American Legion Post.

President Wong then informed Commissioners that just prior to the meeting, he sent Commissioners an Email Summary of pending Legislation of Interest to Veterans and asked them to review it for potential future consideration. He also announced that Ca. Gov. BROWN has recently signed Executive Order B-9-11 which creates the CALIFORNIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON VETERANS, in a broad effort to bring together a variety of City, County, State, and Federal agencies who work in a variety of work on the capital variety of was to be of assistance to the 30.000 veterans returning to California residence each vear.

### Agenda item 12 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

President Wong began with a short review of the issue, then (quest) Mr. Nelson LUM, newly elected President of the American Legion War Memorial Commission (ALWMC). President Lum began with a review of the role of the ALWMC as the sole beneficiary and arbitrator between the Arts Buildings Board of Trust (BoT), and use of the War Memorial Veterans Building by Veterans and/or Patriotic groups. He then reviewed the current status Space Planning with regard to space allocated for Veterans use as part of the Post Retrofit Building Remodel Plan, indicating that while much of the Space Plan is in virtual agreement, there are still areas (particularly with respect to the 3rd floor) that are still in contention. President Lum then addressed the issue of the new Building Space Use form. He stated that we have been fortunate that no major liability claims have been filed, but that future use of the building, by all users (new/old) will require adequate liability insurance. He stated that AL District 8 (i.e. California) is now researching purchase of Umbrella Liability Insurance coverage that would protect ALL American Legion Sponsored building activity; however that still leaves a liability responsibility for other Patriotic Groups, that make application for building use. He stated that such groups might be able to purchase low-cost 'Riders' to add their building use to the Central Liability Insurance Policy. President Wong brought up the possibility of use of a Hold Harmless document in lieu of insurance policy. Mr. Lum answered that BOTH are required. Comm. Noetzel then brought up the new 3-page form and indicated that one difficulty is the (Page 2) 'Hold Harmless' agreement. He said it was written in difficult 'legalese' and that a potential Building User would have to hire a lawyer just to know what they were signing. He asked if it could be re-written in plain English, Mr. Lum agreed that this request could be taken under consideration

Comm. Caldera then asked ALWMC President Lum if there were any plans being made for a new 'home' for the VAC (and other groups now regularly using the building) when the Veterans Building closes down for its Retrofit Project. Mr. Lum answered that they were just now starting to look into the question, and hoped to have further information soon.

ALWMC Comm. Roger Dong than gave a quick update on the new VRC and announced that AMVETS has committed to opening their own operation in the building, and will work closely with the VRC. Most importantly, AMVETS will donate their huge library of computer program software for use by the VRC. Finally, he announced that on Thursday, 10/6, a JOB FAIR will be hosted by the National Veterans Advocacy Group IAVA (Iraq/Afghanistan Vets of America. The full-day event will be in the Green Room, and all vets and potential employers are invited. President Wong thanked Mr. Lum and Mr. Dong for their presentation and appearance before the Commission.

Comm. Noetzel closed discussion in this area with a display of a FLYER which announces the First Annual Fleet Week SMART JOB FAIR, to be held in the Green Room of the War Memorial Veterans Building between noon and 5pm on THURSDAY, the 6" of October, 2011. The event is sponsored by the veterans advocacy group IAVA (Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America), and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. It will include a Resume Workshop, Interview Training, and Information Tables staffed by Bay Area Corporations interested in expanding career opportunities for veterans. He urged all Commissioners to support the event, and attend, if possible.

#### Agenda item 13 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Comm. Caldera reported that since last meeting Fleet Week Events Director Gen. Mike Myatt and his staff have contacted him and Comm. Rose, and included within the list of available services/benefits to sixting military, a FREE work-out session at the 24-hour Fitness location. Comm. Caldera expressed hope that this success might trigger coordination in future Fleet Week plans, to expand the number of San Francisco Businesses who might offer a variety of Fleet Week Discounts to both Active Duty military, as well as veterans.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of October 3, 2011 Page 4 of 4

Agenda item 14 - OLD BUSINESS. No items listed at publication of Agenda, however Comm. Caldera brought up the issue of the obligations for service as a Commissioner, including residence and impact of long-term absence due to medical issues. He expressed his view that in its present configuration, the Commission still has little representation for the 'Post 9/11 Era' Veteran. Comm. Noetzel reiterated that there are several (male) veterans of this era still waiting for an opportunity to serve on the Commission, and one Commissioner who has announced his intent to resign from the Commission due to ongoing health issues.

## Agenda item 15 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Wong announced a need for volunteers to work on the FREE BBQ for visiting military, at Pier 30, on Columbus Day, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, when some estimated 6000 visiting military personnel are expected to show up for the free BBQ. Contact event coordinator Robert Hanson to volunteer.

Comm. Levin announced that he and Mrs. Levin will be embarking on a long-planned cruise, and therefore, with regret, he will be unable to participate in the Veterans Day Parade activities, nor will he be able to attend the November VAC meeting.

Comm. Caldera thanked those who participated in the Post 315 Luau event on 9/18 and pointed out that the event was the only event within the building on that date. He pointed out that unless veterans make more frequent use of the building, we will have little ground to ask for retention of permanent space in the building. He then went on to ask if Commissioners might be interested in continuing the tradition of a December Holiday Party. After some discussion, President Wong appointed Commissioners Caldera, Wilkerson, and Noetzel as an ad hoc Social Function Committee, for the express purpose of developing plans for a Holiday Social event for the VAC.

Comm. Thompson closed the Announcements section, taking the floor to make public announcement and apology for a long-term personal deception that he had perpetrated, and offered his immediate Letter of Resignation. After some discussion, Commissioners accepted his sincere apology. Comm. Levin then offered a motion to recommend to Commissioner Thompson that he NOT resign from the Commission, but rather that we accept his apology and urge him to continue to serve Comm. Noetzel seconded. In discussion, Comm. Alffidi spoke in favor of the motion with the proviso that Comm. Thompson also promise never to repeat or further perpetrate the offense. When Commissioner Thompson agreed, a vote was taken on the Levin motion. The vote, by acclimation, was to forgive Commissioner Thompson, and to recommend that he continue his admirable service as a VAC Commissioner.

#### Agenda item 16 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence

In memory of all American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

## Agenda item 17 - ADJORNMENT

The VAC General Meeting of 10/3/11 was Adjourned, by President Raymond Wong, at 8:32pm.

Minutes of the 10/3/11 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED (as amended herewith) at the VAC Meeting of November 7, 2011

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, November 7, 2011 MEETING AGENDA President Raymond Wong, Presiding

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

OCT 26 2011

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval

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4. REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval a. Review of Sec'v Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 3 October, 2011

5. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

### 6. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report: President Ray Wong (Parade Chairman) to report on current status of arrangements for VETERANS DAY PARADE, scheduled for Friday, 11/11/11, Guests 'Raz' Razwyck (Parade Marshal Chairman) and Javier Tenorio (Executive Chairman) will also provide Status Reports.

- B. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on:
- > VAC Website CHANGES and issues
- > BOS Rules Committee schedule to review Applications for new Commission appointments.
- > Progress on follow-up with the VRC leadership on establishment of an Interactive Job Offer Database.
- 7. NEW Business President to preside over Nomination and election of 4-member NOMINATING COMMITTEE for the purpose of nominating Officers for the 2012 term (as per Section 2, Article IV of VAC BYLAWS.

## 8. Current VETERANS PROJECTS

> Liaison Comm. NOETZEL, to report on progress on project to contact Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations on VETERANS HIRING POLICIES.

## 9. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

A. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Dual Liaison(s), Comm. Thompson, and Comm. Wilkerson, to report on latest developments in this area,

### B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

- > Liaison, Comm. Crichlow to report on WholeVet Program, including potential ACTION on Advisory Letter of Support to Mayor and BOS.
- > Liaison, Comm. Ramirez to report on his ongoing series of TOWN HALL MEETINGS in Veterans Building. including report the September meetings (AM and PB sessions of meetings on 10/26/11).

## C. HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Crichlow to report on ongoing AMVETS program to provide meals for San Francisco homeless Veterans every SUNDAY, in the War Memorial Veteran's Building.

## 10. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

> Comm. Noetzel to introduce a DRAFT RESOLUTION for VAC support of HR2634, a new Bill authored by CA Congressman Bob FILNER titled: Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2011. NOTE: potential ACTION on Adoption of Resolution with Advisory letter to Mayor and BOS.

## 11. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

> Comm. Caldera to report on further developments in his investigation of Restrictive New Policies with respect to reserving space for Veterans Related and Patriotic events within the building, including presentation of a DRAFT of a proposed letter to address the new requirements for insurance, and a CONTRACT before space can be reserved. Item includes potential ACTION to include approval for forwarding of subject LETTER.

- 12. Commission GOALS AND PLANS
  - Comm. Caldera, Chair of Ad Hoc Social Function Committee to report on planning for a December VAC Holiday Party.
- 13. OLD BUSINESS. No items listed at publication of Agenda.
- 14. <u>ANNOUNCEMENTS:</u> Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities in near future.
- 15. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq/Alghanistan conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 16. AIORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Nov. 7, 2011

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Raymond Wong at 6:02pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Alleglance, led by President Raymond Wong.

## Agenda Item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Noetzel, Ramirez, Rose, Thompson, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong, (11)

Absent: Commissioner(s): Comm. D. Dacumos (excused, illness), Comm. G. Gibbs (excused, surgery), Comm. C. Gruwell (excused, travel), Comm. W. Levin (excused, travel).

Attending Guests: Roger Dong, Javier Tenorio, Glen Razwyck, DeAnne Isenberg, Sam Takeolirai, Jonathan Burns, Edward Cooke, and (new) Commissioners-elect: DOTTIE GUY, and JORDAN TOWERS. There was no City Attorney in attendance.

#### Agenda Item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

Mollon to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera; 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Alfidi. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item 4 - Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the October 3, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Spelling and other minor corrections were offered by Commissioners Rose, Ramirez, Alfidi, Caldera. Comm. Caldera then offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as corrected (2<sup>nd</sup>- Comm. Ramirez). In a subsequent Vote the October 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

- Meeting guest Edward Cooke introduced himself as a representative of Elks Lodge #3 here in San Francisco. He announced that on Veterans Day (11/11/11) the Elks Lodge (at 450 Post St.) will welcome all Veterans & Active Duty personnel and families to their dining room for discount buffet lunch and dinner to extend their long tradition of honoring and supporting Veterans.
- Meeting Guest Jonathan Burns, President of the S.F. Elks Lodge added comments on the background of support for Veterans that the ELKS have extended to Veterans and Active Duty military & families. Several Commissioners rose to thank the Elks representatives, and Comm. Ramirez took the opportunity to invite them to plan a presentation at a future TOWN HALL meeting.
- > Meeting Guest, ALWMC Comm. Roger Dong provided a quick update on the Veterans Resource Center (VRC). The VRC continues to grow in use with increasing numbers of new veterans stopping in every day.

#### Agenda Item 6 - Officers Reports

#### A - President's Report -

President Wong deferred his report to the Announcements section, then as per Agenda he opened discussion on the current status of planning for the 11/11/VETERANS DAY PARADE. He re-introduced Parade Executive Chairman Javier Tenorio who rose to provide an update. Javier announced that parade arrangements were in good order and there are some 44 distinct Parade Units that will be participating. He was confident that all obligations for a successful Parade had been met. With that he distributed to all Commissioners, individual Parade Honoree badges, courtesy of Comm. Levin. Parade Marshal Chairman Glen 'Raz' Raswyck added comments on logistics and thanked the SFPD for their support and participation he event. He closed by urging all who volunteered for duty as Parade Marshal or Security Monitors, to assemble at the Wells Fargo Bank alcove, at the corner of Market and Montgomery, starting at 7:00am, to receive their Parade Marshal Vests and Armbands, and specific parade duties/assignment.

#### B - Secretary's Report.

Sec'y. Noetzel began his report with the announcement that meeting guests JORDAN TOWERS, and DOTTIE GUY had very recently been nominated (by the BOS Rules Committee) to fill the last two vacant seats on the Commission, those being Seat #10, (recently vacated by the resignation of Comm. Guglielmoni) and now to be filled by eventual appointment of Mr. Towers, and Seat #12, (the last of the opened VAC positions) now to be filled by eventual appointment of Ms. Guy. After a round of congratulatory applicate, both Mr. Towers and Ms. Guy rose to provide additional background information on their recent military service as both had been deployed to the current Iraq/Alghanistan war-zone areas. They also spoke of their interest in extending their service by working to help veterans of all eras, as members of the VAC. Both nominees were warmly welcomed by the Commission.

Sec y Noetzel then reported on the current status of the VAC Website, and the 'updates' & changes he initiated in the past month, including announcement (on our 'Projects' Page) of the AMVETS 'every Sunday', FREE MEALS FOR VETERANS IN NEED program recently endorsed by the VAC.

Sec'y Noetzel also reported on further efforts to establish a VETERANS CAREER DATABASE (VCD) within the Veterans Resource Center, whereby veterans job hunt and Employers Job offerings, could be matched.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of November 7, 2011 Page 2 of 3

#### Agenda item 7 - NEW Business -

President Wong initiated discussion on this 'Agenda Action Item' with a commitment to adhere to our established By Laws with regard to the Nomination and election of 4-member NOMINATING COMMITTEE for the purpose of nominating Officers for the 2012 term. With that he opened the floor for Nominations for the subject Committee.

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- > Comm. Noetzel spoke to nominate Comm. ALFIDI to the Nominating Committee. He accepted the nomination.
- > Comm. Crichlow spoke to nominate Comm. NOETZEL to the Nominating Committee. He accepted the nomination.
  > Comm. D. Wong spoke to nominate Comm. RAMIREZ to the Nominating Committee. He accepted the nomination.
- Comm. D. wong spoke to nominate Comm. HAMINE2 to the Nominating Committee. He accepted the nomination.
   Comm. Baldonado spoke to nominate Comm. ROSE to the Nominating Committee. She accepted the nomination.

After calling 3-times for further Nominations, and hearing none, the **President then closed nominations**. A hand-shown election was then held, and the four-Commissioner Nominating Committee Candidate 'slate' was unanimously elected by the Commission. Arrangements were made to have the Nominating Committee meet for non-hour, just prior to the next meeting of the VAC, that is at 5:00pm on Monday, the 5" of December, to conduct their business

## Agenda item 8 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS

Liaison Comm. NOETZEL, reported on progress on project to contact. Human Resources Directors of Major S.F. Corporations to encourage the himing of Veterans. He reported on a recent Veterans Corporate Technology Day held at the CISCO Systems San Jose Campus, on 10/18/11. He reported that Cisco Representative Mark Harvey reported "over 200 veteran participants" in the event, while observer Jerome Vahai (who has spoken at previous VAC meetings) said he saw only about 20 veterans actually at the event. Comm. Noterel observed that some corporations may be giving 'lip service' to announced efforts to hire vets and that we must verify their claims and hold them to their commitments.

### Agenda item 9 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

### A - Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Liaison Comm. Thompson reported that the next Calif. EDD Sponsored JOB FAIR is scheduled for MAY of 2012, and it will be held in our War Memorial Veterans building! Further planning for this major event continues.

## B - Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Liaison, Comm. Crichlow reported on the WHOLE VETS program that she has been developing under sponsorship by AMVETS. A formal Resolution-in-Support Document for presentation to the Commission is still in development.

Comm. Crichlow also reported on the 'Signing of the Covenant' Program, a new initiative inviting government and corporate leaders to participate in a 'Signed Covenant' to dedicate their work to the highest ideals of Service to the Community. She introduced her guest, Ms. DeAnne Isenberg, who spoke to further describe the event, including announcement that the "Signing of the Covenant" Event has now been scheduled for the 2"d of MARCH of 2012, and that large portions of the Veterans Building will be rented and utilized in this Major event, including a RESOURCE FAIR.

Comm. Ramirez then reported on his monthly series of TOWN HALL MEETINGS in the Veterans Building. He urged all Commissioners to spread the word about the meetings to maximize this important effort. The next Town Hall Meeting(s) are scheduled for Wednesday, the 30° of November.

## C - HOMELESS Veterans.

- > Comm. Crichlow reported on the ongoing AMYETS program currently providing meals for 25 to 35 San Francisco Homeless Veterans every SUNDAY, in the War Memorial Veteran's Building. The program is succeeding as the word gets out – including a new announcement on the VAC website. (See item 68, above).
- Comm. Crichlow also passed our cards that announced a VETERANS CONNECT Service Day at the Downtown VA Clinic, (3" & Harrison) on Wednesday the 9" of November. This was a surprise to all as we had not been informed of this event earlier, and many of us regularly volunteer at such events. Comm. Crichlow mentioned that she is a member of a VA Advisors Group, and that she would be happy to bring up the issue of this communication failure at the next VA COUNCIL meeting, in an effort to re-establish communication with the leadership of that office to insure prior opportunity to participate, as in the past. Pres. Wong urged her to do exactly that. Comm. Crichlow then suggested that we set up an EVENTS CALANDER on the VAC Website. There was further discussion on this as a 2012 goal for the Commission.
- > Comm.Thompson reminded all that all veterans qualify for CA Unemployment Insurance benefits, immediately upon discharge from active duty.

#### Agenda Item 10 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION

Sec'y Noetzel then introduced a new Agenda Action Item, that being a new RESOLUTION in SUPPORT of a new Bill, HR2634 recently introduced in the House, by Congressman Bob Filner, of California. The Bill is titled: The <u>Victims of Agent Orange</u>. Rellef Act of 2011 and it provides for a variety of measures to mitigate the horrendous effects of widespread use of defoliant chemicals during the Victnam War. Due to early distribution of the proposed page-long RESOLUTION, most Commissioners

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of November 7, 2011 Page 3 of 3

Continued from previous page Agenda item 10 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION

were familiar with its content. After a brief review, Comm. Caldera made a MOTION that the VAC endorses and adopts the Resolution as written, including the attached Letter of Advice to City Government. (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Thompson). In the brief discussion that followed, Comm. Alfidi asked if the proposed legislation commits to funding of medical and rehabilitation efforts for Vietnamese Nationals. Sec'y Noetzel answered that the intent of the legislation would include eventual financial impact both here, AND in Vietnam, but that the Funding Authorization portion of the Bill is still in development. Without further discussion, President Wong Called the Question. The subsequent vote to adopt the Resolution was unanimous. Sec'y Noetzel will follow through with forwarding the Resolution to the City overnment of S. E. via a letter of Advice from the Commission.

#### Agenda item 11 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

Comm. Caldera suggested that further discussion on matters related to the Veterans building would best be TABLED for future meetings as the impending City Election (on 11/8) will determine exactly who we will be dealing with on many of the still-urgent questions related to the building and its users. President Wong tabled the discussion as suggested.

#### Agenda Item 12 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Comm. Caldera reported on planning (by the ad-hoc Committee) for a VAC HOLIDAY PARTY in December. He said the consensus of the Committee was to plan for an abbreviated VAC meeting in December, (i.e. from 6-pm to 7pm on 5 December) and after adjournment, gather again at the VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER (Room 210) for a HOLIDAY PARTY, for Commissioners, their families, as well as staff & friends of the VRC. He suggested that a contribution of \$10. per Commissioner would suffice to fund the party Comm. Noetzel made a MOTION (2<sup>m</sup> dy Comm. Rose), to schedule the HOLIDAY PARTY as described, including the \$10. per Commissioner suggested Donation to buy appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks for the event. The subsequent VOTE was unanimous in support of the plan as presented, with cash Collections for same to be taken after meeting tonight.

Comm. Caldera then introduced a new subject under this Agenda topic; that being a goal to expand 'visibility' of the VAC in the community in the next year. He mentioned two examples of recent veterans related events (in the city), with no contact or notice to the VAC. Comm. Ramirez added supportive comments along this line, and Sec'y Noetzel brough up the new Callf. Inter-Agency Council on Veterans, recently established by Gov. Brown. He suggested that the VAC should seek to have representation on this important new Statewide Council, as an AGENDA item early in the new term. Comm. Rose asked if there were plans, at the start of the New Year, to discuss and establish new GOALS AND PLANS for the VAC in 2012. Sec'y Noetzel suggested that the Agenda for the December Meeting include reserved time for each candidate for Commission President, to describe to the Commission, their vision for what they would like to see the VAC accomplish (in the 2012 term) as essentially their 'Platform' for election to President. There was a broad consensus in agreement.

Agenda Item 13 - OLD BUSINESS No items listed at publication of Agenda.

#### Agenda item 14 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > President Wong announced that Assembly Speaker Pro-tem Fiona Ma, is hosting a Pre-Veterans Day Recognition Reception for Veterans and Military families, on Wed. 11/9, from 3-5pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> II. @ 455 Golden Gate Ave.

  > President Wong also announced on Saturday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, his VFW 91<sup>rd</sup> Division/Chinatown Post #4618 will host its 66<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Celebration Dinner at the Four Seas Restaurant, in Chinatown. Tickets for the Banquet style dinner are \$30. each
- Comm. Crichlow asked Mr. Jordan Tower to represent Swords to Plowshares with an announcement about their Annual Dinner. Mr. Tower reminded all that the 15th Annual Swords to Plowshares Profiles of Courage dinner is this Thursday evening, at the Four Seasons Hotel, on Market St. A show of hands indicated that at lease half of those in attendance had already purchased tickets. A few tickets are still available
- > Comm. Rose announced that on Tues.11/14 at a BOS Committee meeting, Supervisors Mar & Avalos will introduce their Resolution to end the wars in Iraq/Afghanistan.

#### Agenda item 15 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### Agenda Item 16 - ADJORNMENT

of nomeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

Minutes of the 11/7/11 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED (as written) at the VAC Meeting of December 5, 2011.

The VAC General Meeting of 11/7/11 was adjourned, by President Raymond Wong, at 8:22pm.

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco
War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

# Monday, December 5, 2011 MEETING AGENDA

President Raymond Wong, Presiding

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- 3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval
- REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

   Review of Sec'v Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 7 November, 2011
- 5. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).
- 6. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report: President Ray Wong to WELCOME NEW VAC COMMISSIONERS, Dottie Guy, and Jordan Towers. Both have been guests at previous meetings, however this will be their FIRST OFFICIAL meeting as new Commissioners, and the first time our Commission is at full strength. President Wong (as Parade Chairman) will provide an After-Action Report on the VETERANS DAY PARADE, of 11/11/11.

- B. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on VAC Website changes/updates, and on VAC Correspondence & contacts since precious meeting.
- 7. NEW Business President to turn meeting over to NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR who will announce Committee Nominations for VAC Office positions for 2012. President Wong will then resume as meeting Chair to open the floor for additional nominations by Commission members, including self-nomination.
- 8. Current VETERANS PROJECTS

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

9. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area. Brief Report from Liaison, Comm. Ramirez on his TOWN HALL MEETING of 11/30/11. C. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

DOCUMENTS DEP

10. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

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11. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

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12. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

ACTION ITEM: Comm. Crichlow to offer Motion to request official VAC Endorsement for the planed 3/2/12 Community Covenant event: VETERAN & MILITARY RESOURCE FAIR, at War Memorial Veterans Building.

- 13. OLD BUSINESS, No items listed at publication of Agenda.
- 14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities
- 15. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 16. 7:00pm AJORNMENT to VAC HOLIDAY PARTY in Room 210

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5th Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

#### DISABILITY ACCESS

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Dec. 5, 2011

## Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Raymond Wong at 6:03pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Alleglance, led by President Wong.

#### Agenda Item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners AlfIdI, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gruwell, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Rose, Thompson, Towers, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong. (16)

Absent: Commissioner G. Gibbs (excused, surgery).

Attending Guests: Paul Cox, Roger Dong, Matthew Martenyi City Attorney W. Spedgrass was also in attendance.

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#### Agenda item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Levin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Alfidi. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda O was passed unanimously.

### Agenda item 4 - Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the November 7, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Ramirez offered a MOTION to accept Minutes as written, (2<sup>nd</sup>-Comm. Caldera). In a subsequent Vote the Motion to accept November 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes, as written, passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

- Meeting guest, ALWMC Commissioner Paul Cox introduced himself and congratulated the Commission on attaining full strength with the addition of its newly appointed Commissioners, J. Towers and D. Guy. Mr. Cox also reported on the War Memorial Complex Board of Trust with respect to relocation arrangements for occupants of the War Memorial Veterans Building. He stated that, at present, MOST of the organizations with permanent office space within the building will not receive relocation support or funding as matters now stand.
- > Meeting guest, Matthew Martenyl introduced himself and his work as the Director of the WholeVet Program. He thanked the Commission for its earlier endorsement of the program.
- Meeting Guest ALWMC Commissioner Roger Dong spoke briefly about a potential new funding source for the activities of the Veterans Resource Center. He suggested that an official Letter of Advice to the Mayor (from the VAC) might be helpful in acquisition of such funding. President Wong suggested that the Advice Letter could be added to the Agenda for the January meeting. Sec'y Noetzel volunteered to work with Mr. Dong in drafting the Advice Letter for consideration at the January meeting as an ACTION ITEM.

## Agenda Item 6 - Officers Reports

<u>A. President's Report</u>; President Ray Wong officially welcomed NEW VAC COMMISSIONERS, Dottle Guy, and Jordan Towers. Both have been guests at previous meetings, however this is their FIRST OFFICIAL meeting as new Commissioners, (after Ratification of their appointments by the full BOS on 11/15/11). AND, the first time our Commission has reached its full 17-member strength!

President Wong (as Parade Chairman) began his After-Action Report on the VETERANS DAY PARADE, of 11/1/111, by deferring to Comm. Wallace Levin as Parade Coordinator. Comm. Levin thanked all who participated in parade planning, management and participation in his absence, and announced that he is still gathering files and documents from both Parade Executive Chairman Javier Tenorio, and Parade Marshal Chairman Glien Razwyck. He requested that a full Report on the Parade be tabled to the January VAC meeting, when he will have had time to prepare a full Parade After-Action Report, including turn-over of all 2011 Parade files and documents, including a full Financial Report. His request was accepted by President Wong who asked that it be placed on the January VAC Meeting Agenda.

### B - Secretary's Report.

Sec'y. Noetzel gave a brief report on VAC Website changes/updates, and on VAC Correspondence & contacts since precious meeting.

## Agenda Item 7 - NEW Business -

A. - President's REPORT on NOMINATIONS reported out from the Nominating Committee.

President Wong opened this section by asking Nominating Committee Chair, Commissioner Eduardo Ramirez, to Report on the proceedings of the Committee.

Commissioner (and Nominating Committee Chair) Eduardo Ramirez then reported on the work of the Committee (i.e. Commissioners A. Alfidi; S. Noetzel; E. Ramirez, and A. Rose), at its sole meeting held one hour prior to the General VAC Meeting, Chair Ramirez then formally announced the official Nominations of the Committee, as follows:

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of December 5, 2011 Page 2 of 3

For Commission PRESIDENT:
Commissioner John Caldera
Commissioner Eduardo Ramírez.
(Comm. S. Noetzel, declining Nomination)

For Commission VICE-PRESIDENT:
Commissioner Anthony Alfldi
Commissioner John Caldera
Commissioner Eduardo Ramirez
(Comm. Amber Rose, declining Nomination)

For Commission SECRETARY:
Commissioner Stephen Noetzel

President Wong then accepted the Report of the Nominating Committee and announced the results as Official Nominations. After reiterating the Nominating Committee Presidential Candidates as Commissioners Caldera and Ramirez, he opened the floor for further nominations, for the office of President. Comm. Baldonado offered a Nomination for President, for Commissioner Wallace Levin; however Comm. Levin declined, with his thanks. Hearing no further response, President Wong closed nominations for President (for this meeting) and continued by opening the floor for further nominations for the office of Vice-President.

Comm. Levin raised a Point of Order, asking if it was appropriate for a Nominee to appear on a ballot for more than one office in the same election. As the By-Laws do not address the situation, Clarification was provided by the City Attorney, Mr. Snodgrass suggested that the potential for election to more than one office could be resolved by holding individual elections. In that case, if a "dual Nominee" was elected to one Office, that Nominee would then withdraw from the ballot for any other office on which his/her name appeared. President Wong then stated that when administering the January elections, the first vote would be for President. After that, Nominated candidates not voted to the Presidency, would be carried on ballots for other offices, if so nominated. This solution was agreeable to all.

With that, President Wong relietated the Nominating Committee Vice-Presidential Candidates as Commissioners Alfidi, Caldera and Ramirez. He then opened the floor for further nominations, for the office of Vice-President. Comm. Levin offered a floor nomination for Comm. Crichlow, for VP. After Comm. Chrichlow accepted the nomination, President Wong asked for further nominations. Hearing no further response, President Wong closed nominations for Vice-President (for this meeting) and continued by opening the floor for further nominations for the office of Secretary.

President Wong relierated the Nominating Committee Candidate for Secretary (Comm. Noetzel), and opened the floor for further nominations, for the office of Secretary. Hearing no further response, President Wong closed nominations for Secretary (for this meeting) with an announcement that prior to administration of an Officers Election, at the January Meeting of the Commission, the floor would once again be opened to afford one last opportunity for additional nominations, for ALL offices, including opportunity for Self-Nomination.

#### B. - Comm. Gruwell introduction of future Agenda Item.

Comm. Gruwell introduced a suggestion that the VAC look into a proposal to support a VETERANS PAYROLL TAX EXEMPTION, for Post 9/11 Era Veterans. This idea would make the employment of veterans more attractive to potential Employers, by providing to them an EXEMPTION to the \$1500. In Payroll tax that they are now required to fund for each \$100k of employee payroll. Commissioners agreed to place this Item on the next VAC Meeting Agenda for further development, discussion, and Potential ACTION VOTE.

Agenda Item 8 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS No discussion of Veterans Projects taken up at this meeting.

#### Agenda Item 9 - REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES.

### A - Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Liaison Comm. Thompson reported that the next Calif. EDD Sponsored JOB FAIR has now been identified as the 16th of MAY 2012, and it will be held in the War Memorial Veterans building. Further planning for this major event continues.

#### B - Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Comm. Ramirez reported that the VETERANS TOWN HALL MEETING of Wednesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. Once again drew a moderate number of Vets as well as Service Providers, but that it continues to grow each month. See Agenda Item #14, Announcements, below.

C - HOMELESS Veterans. No discussion of this issue taken up at this meeting.

Agenda Item 10 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION No discussion of this issue taken up at this meeting.

Agenda Item 11 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING, No discussion of this issue taken up at this meeting.

#### Agenda Item 12 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Comm. Crichlow offered a Motion (on this Action Item), requesting official VAC Endorsement for a major 3/2/12 EVENT in the Veterans Building, called the Community Covenant VETERAN & MILITARY RESOURCE FAIR. (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Levin). By way of discussion Sec'y Noetzel stated that if we all work together, this event has the potential to become the most significant Veterans Community Event in the War Memorial Veterans Building, in decades. The Community Covenant Planning Committee has placed significant Deposit Funds to secure virtually all the rentable space in the War Memorial Veterans Building, and there is a major ongoing effort to build the Resource and Job Fair portion of the event to a level that will bring together many government and corporate partners – ready to interview and his pic-be-seeking eterans. Comm. Ramirez suggested that it would be a great idea if the established Veterans Employment Committee (including the State EDD, etc.) could piggy-back' onto this event, and move their Job Fair (now planned for Mid-May) to be wrapped into the Major Event of the 2"m of March. Without further discussion, President Wong Called the Question. The subsequent vote for the VAC to ENDORSE the March 2, 2012 Community Covenant VETERAN & MILITARY RESOURCE FAIR. Sec'y Noetzel will follow through and author an Advice Letter to the Mayor and BOS, asking for their support and endorsement of the event as well.

Agenda Item 13 - OLD BUSINESS No items listed at publication of Agenda.

#### Agenda Item 14 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > Comm. Ramirez made a Reminder Announcement that the next Veterans Town Hall Meeting, will be on Wednesday, 12/21/11 (two Sessions; 9-11am and 5-7pm), in Room 207 of the WM Veterans Building.
- > Comm. Crichlow announced that the next Planning Committee Meeting for the 3/2/12 (newly Endorsed) Community Covenant VETERAN & MILITARY RESOURCE FAIR, will be in Room 207 of the WM Veterans Building, from 11:30am to 12:30pm on Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

## Agenda item 15 - Honors Report and Moment of Slience

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community, with particular honor to the approaching 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the invasion of Pearl Harbor, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 1941.

### Agenda Item 16 - ADJORNMENT

The VAC General Meeting of 12/5/11 was adjourned, by President Raymond Wong, at 7:19pm.

Minutes of the 12/5/11 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED (as corrected) at the VAC Meeting of January 9, 2012.



## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, January 9, 2012
MEETING AGENDA
President Raymond Wong, Presiding

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

IAN - 4 2012

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval

REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

a. Review of Sec'v Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 5 December 2011

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5. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

## 6. Officers REPORTS:

A. <u>President's Report</u>; President Wong to present final President's Report for 2011 Term, including his Report on the Mayor's Budget Instructions Meeting of 12/16/11.

#### B. Secretary's Report:

> ACTION ITEM: Secretary Noetzel to present DRAFT of ANNUAL REPORT of 2011
(as required in By- Laws). Discussion and potential Motion for Adoption and Ratification.

> Correspondence & contacts since precious meeting.

#### 7. NEW Business - Final NOMINATIONS and ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012 TERM.

- A. President Wong to open floor for any potential additional Nominations for Office (including Self-Nomination).
- B. President Wong to afford equal floor time for Nominated Candidates to announce their 'Piatform', or Administrative Pians, Goals, and Vision for the VAC, if elected.
- C. President Wong to administer Election of Officers by Public Written Ballot, by 3 separate elections; First for President, then V.P., then Secretary.
- D. President Wong to Preside over formal installation of New Officers, for the 2012 Term, after which the Chairmanship of the balance of the meeting will be turned over to the new PRESIDENT.

## From this point forward; Newly Elected President, Presiding

#### 8. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

- A. President to preside over Open Discussion Goals and Plans for the Commission for the 2012 term. No specific ACTION is anticipated at this meeting, in this area, however Commissioners are urged to present their individual ideas and views in this area for future consideration/implementation.
- B. President to preside over Open Discussion on Potential Changes to VAC By-Laws. No ACTION is anticipated at this meeting, however Commissioners are urged to review/discuss methods for eventual By-Laws Revision and Update.

### 9. OLD BUSINESS.

Commissioner Levin to provide After-Action Report on the VETERANS DAY PARADE, of 11/11/11, including full Income and Expense Documentation.

#### 8. Current VETERANS PROJECTS

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

#### 9. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

#### Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

Brief Report from Liaison, Comm. Ramirez on his TOWN HALL MEETING of 12/21/11.

### C. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

## MEETING AGENDA - S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission - General Meeting of January 9, 2012

#### 10. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

#### 11. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

## 14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities

15. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### 16. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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## PUBLIC ACCESS:

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For information on your rights under the Sunshine ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Mr. Chris RUSTON, Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at telephone # 415-554-7724.

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Jan. 9, 2012

#### Agenda item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Raymond Wong at 6:01pm. The meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Alleglance, led by President Wong.

#### Agenda Item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gibbs, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Rose, Thompson, Towers, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong, (14)

Absent: Commissioner R. Baldonado, (excused, illness), C. Gruwell, (excused, calendar conflict), D. Guy (excused, illness),

Attending Guests; Jayler Tenorio, David Adams, Jana Dawson, DeAnn Isenberg, Michael Maffei City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.

### Agenda item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Ramirez: 2nd Comm. Wilkerson, Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

## Agenda Item 4 - Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the December 5, 2011 VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Thompson offered a minor correction regarding date of VEC/EDD Job Fair (i.e. 5/16/12). MOTION to accept Minutes as written by Comm. Wilkerson (2nd - Comm. Caldera). In a subsequent Vote the Motion to accept December 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes, as corrected, passed unanimously.

## Agenda Item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

- > Meeting quest, DeAnn Isenberg introduced herself as Chair of the Planning Committee for the March 2, 2012 San Francisco Armed Forces Community Covenant Resource and Job Fair scheduled in the WM Veterans Building. She thanked the Commission for their support and endorsement of the event (at December meeting). Comm. Noetzel assured Ms. Isenberg that the VAC will be following up their endorsement with official correspondence to the City Government, advising their support of the event.
- > Meeting Guest Jayler Tenorlo rose to give a REPORT on the Veterans Day Parade of 11/11/11 (See Agenda Item 9 for details).
- > Meeting Guest Dayld Adams rose to make a short presentation about his organization "Socks for Soles". It is a direct service program and provides items such as Clothing, furniture, and used bicycles to needy veterans. They are seeking donations to expand their services to veterans.
- > Meeting Guest Jana Dawson rose to introduce himself. He said he is a veteran and new to the area and interested in becoming involved in opportunities to help veterans. Comm. Crichlow added that Mr. Dawson has already been helpful in participating in the Meals for Needy Vets program in the WM Veterans building, on Sunday's.
- > Meeting Guest Michael Maffel rose to introduce himself. He said he is a US Navy veteran who completed his Active Duty Service as a US Navy JAG Officer in 2010, and is now working as an Assistant District Attorney in the office of (new) S.F. DA Gascon. He said he is very interested in Veterans issues, and deals with veterans with legal issues often at his job. President Wong asked him about the potential for Veterans Courts, Mr. Maffel said he is in favor of establishment of a dedicated Veterans Court In S.F. if warranted by caseload, Comm. Noetzel informed guest Maffel that the VAC had earlier advocated for establishment of a Veterans Court in an Advice Letter to the City some time ago, and Comm. Caldera recounted a conversation with D.A. Gascon on the subject. Comm. Noetzel acquired contact info to send Mr. Maffel a copy of said letter

#### Agenda Item 6 - Officers Reports

- A. President's Report; President Wong reported on the Wreaths Across America event that he and Dara Wong recently participated in. He also reported on the Mayor's Budget Instructions Meeting of 12/16/11. Primary concern was the \$263 million deficit faced by the city, and how it would affect programs advocated by the various City Commissions.
- B. Secretary's Report; Secretary Noetzel began with a review of his (earlier distributed) DRAFT of the COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT of 2011, by noting some minor changes that had been suggested by President Wong. In further consideration on this Agenda Action Item, Comm. Caldera noted that it included notation that of seven Issues that the VAC had formally advised the city on (during 2011), only one had received a response, by either the Mayor or the BOS. A MOTION to RATIFY the REPORT (as corrected) was made by Comm. Caldera (2nd, Comm. Dara Wong), Hearing no further discussion, the question was called and a subsequent VOTE to RATIFY and ADOPT the 2011 ANNUAL REPORT passed unanimously. DOCUMENTS DEPT

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of January 9, 2012 Page 2 of 4

Agenda Item 7 - NEW Business -Final NOMINATIONS and ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012 TERM.

President Wong reviewed the current status of nominations; to wit:

For Commission PRESIDENT:
Commissioner John Caldera
Commissioner Eduardo Ramirez

For Commission VICE-PRESIDENT:
Commissioner Anthony Alfildi
Commissioner John Caldera
Commissioner Eduardo Ramirez

For Commission SECRETARY: Commissioner Stephen Noetzel

President Wong then opened the floor for ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS (if any), including calling THREE TIMES for any additional nominations to EACH of the three leadership positions. Hearing no additional nominations for any position, President Wong then moved the process by affording opportunity for both of the Presidential Candidates to announce their 'Platform', or Administrative Plans, Goals, and Vision for 2012 Leadership of the VAC, if elected.

Comm. CALDERA led off by reviewing his (earlier distributed) 2012 Commission Goals & Plans Document, specifically his 'Four Pillars of Commitment' as his vision for the focus of the VAC in 2012; those being:

- Institute a Mentorship Program.
  - 2. Review/Update VAC By-laws.
- 3. Lobby for Veterans use of the SF Veterans Building.
- 4. Increase visibility, accessibility & transparency of the VAC

Comm. RAMIREZ followed by reviewing his (earlier distributed) 2012 CommIssion Goals & Plans Document, which also included four key goals for the VAC in 2012; those being:

- 1. Presence of a VAC Representative on all planning meetings for Veterans Building Remodel.
- 2. Make VAC the Focal Point to coordinate all S.F. services for veterans.
- 3. Establish a Wellness Center in the WM Veterans Building.
- 4. Establish a Social Media program for improved communication with younger veterans (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

President Wong then moved forward to administer a BALLOT MARKED ELECTION for the office of PRESIDENT. Assistant District Attorney and Guest Michael Maffel was asked to assist in tabulation and verification of marked ballots. He agreed to do so and BALLOTS for the office of PRESIDENT were distributed to all Commissioners present. After marking ballots and a Tabulation of Results (by Mr.Maffei), President Wong verified tabulation and announced the following Election Results:

Commissioner CALDERA received a total of SEVEN VOTES (7), (Alfidi, Caldera, Dacumos, Gibbs, Noetzel, Thompson, Wilkerson)

Commissioner RAMIREZ received a total of SIX VOTES (6), (Crichlow, Levin, Ramirez, Rose, D. Wong, R. Wong)

There was ONE ABSTENTION (Towers), so with ballots for all 14 present Commissioners tabulated, President Wong announced that Commissioner JOHN CALDERA is officially elected as VAC PRESIDENT for the 2012 Term.

President Wong then moved forward to administer a BALLOT MARKED ELECTION for the office of VICE PRESIDENT. With his election as President, Comm. Caldera agreed that his name should be STRICKEN from all Ballots for VICe President. After doing so, BALLOTS for the office of VICE PRESIDENT were distributed to all Commissioners present. After marking ballots and a Tabulation of Results (by Mr.Maffei), President Wong verified tabulation and announced the following VICE PRESIDENT Election Results:

Commissioner ALFIDI received a total of EIGHT VOTES (8), (Alfidi. Caldera, Crichlow, Gibbs, Noetzel, Rose, Wilkerson, D. Wong)

Commissioner RAMIREZ received a total of SIX VOTES (6), (Dacumos, Levin, Ramirez, Thompson, Towers,R. Wong)

With ballots for all 14 present Commissioners tabulated, President Wong announced that

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of January 9, 2012 Page 3 of 4

President Wong then moved forward to administer a BALLOT MARKED ELECTION for the office of SECRETARY.

BALLOTS for the office of SECRETARY were distributed to all Commissioners present. After marking and a Tabulation of Results (by Mr.Maffei), President Wong verified tabulation and announced the following Election Results:

Commissioner NOETZEL received a total of THIRTEEN VOTES (13).

(Alfidi, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gibbs, Levin, Noetzel, Rose, Thompson, Towers, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong)

There was ONE ABSTENTION (Ramirez), so with ballots for all 14 present Commissioners tabulated, President Wong announced that Commissioner STEPHEN NOETZEL is officially elected as SECRETARY for the 2012 Term.

Commissioner Raymond Wong then administered an Oath of Office to Swear-in the new 2012 Officers.

After congratulations to all, Commissioner Wong (as Past President) passed the Gavel to Newly Elected President
Calders who hanked the Commission for their vote of confidence, and then presided over the balance of the meeting.

### Agenda Item 8 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Newly elected President Caldera then expanded on his Plans and Goals for the Commission. He mentioned that the Commission Charter includes provisions for the Commission to hold PUBLIC HEARINGS on issues of importance to veterans and promised to look into taking advantage of this important provision in 2012. He also spoke of expanding visibility of the Commission so that the leaders In City Government are more aware of Veterans Issues and what the Commission is working on in these areas, and, once aware, will be more prone to take action on Advice Letters forwards by the Commission.

He also introduced his suggestion for TWO major EVENTS for consideration, the first being his hope that we might initiate another HOMELESS CONNECT event in the Veterans Building before it closes for remodel, and second his vision to plan for a VETERAN'S BALL some time prior to the building retrofit closure.

President Caldera also formed three Committees to take initial action on some of the more pressing issues requiring action in 2012, specifically:

Committee on Revision of VAC By-Laws: Comm Noetzel (chair), plus member Commissioners Towers, Rose, Ramirez, & Wilkerson (total 5 members)

Committee on Veterans Health & Wellness: Comm. Crichlow (Chair), plus member Commissioners Ramirez, Dacumos, Caldera, & Thompson (total 5 members)

Committee on Veterans Related LEGISLATION: Comm Alfidi (Chair) plus member Commissioners R. Wong, D. Wong, Rose, Dacumos, Towers, & Thompson (total 7 members)

### Agenda Item 9 - OLD BUSINESS.

A\_VETERANS\_DAY\_PARADE, Commissioner Levin asked Parade Director (and guest) Mr. Javier Tenorio to provide an initial report on Parade Details. After thanking all VAC Commissioners and veterans who volunteered as Marshals and other Parade duties, Mr. Tenorio provided specific details, including:

- > SF Police completed Street Closures as planned.
  - There were a total of 44 Units participating in the Parade.

He then provided oral details on Parade Finances, informing the Commission that a total of \$11,200. In Parade Funding was received from the City GRANTS FOR ARTS COMMISSION. The major Expense Categories included:

- > \$5,200. In Administrative Costs.
- \$4,000. In Parade Advertising costs.
- > \$2,000. In Parade Awards (i.e. Cash prizes to JROTC units and misc. plaques).

President Caldera asked if the traditional listing of Award Winners was available. Mr. Tenorio said he would be happy to forward that report to the Commission.

Commissioner Levin then provided an additional oral report providing a further breakdown of the Administrative Expenses, including Invoice Payments of \$500. for Port-a-Toilets, and \$500. for Parade Judges. He closed by reminding the Commission that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) are the Grantees of Parade funding as provided by the Grants for the Arts, a City Agency. As a Public Agency, full financial details of Parade Expenses are available from that Agency.

#### B. Current VETERANS PROJECTS:

President Caldera opened this Section with an announcement that at the next VAC Meeting he will appoint various Commissioners as Lelison Commissioners to various outside Commissions/Agencles/Organizations. He requested that individual Commissioners contact him with their areas of interest for such appointment.

Ramirez: Get more Federal Agencies into the building.

#### C. Veterans EMPLOYMENT:

Comm. Thompson reported that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual VEC/EDD JOB FAIR, has now been set for Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 2012, from 10am to 4pm at the War Memorial Veterans Bullding. He announced that there will be a Planning meeting (for the event) on 1/19/12

## D. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Comm. Ramirez reported on his TOWN HALL MEETING of 122/1/11. He stated that he will be broadening his efforts in this area by forming a partnership with Mary Ellen TERVANO, Chair of the Veterans Collaborative, a group formed to bring together numerous veterans resource agencies. He stated that the title of his monthly meetings will now become the VETERANS TOWN HALL/COLLABORITIVE, and the long-term goal will be to establish such a group in every county in the State.

Comm. Ramirez also reported that he is now seeking membership on the new California inter Agency on Veterans, and will be reporting on progress in the future.

#### E. HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Gibbs reported on the next East Bay Stand-Down, a large event to benefit Bay Area Homeless Veterans. He stated that a new goal for the 4-Day Event will be to offer (for the first time), a number of actual Housing Options to transition vets from Homeless to Housing. A Planning Meeting for the Stand Down is as scheduled for 1/17.

#### Agenda Item 10 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION

Comm. R. Wong referenced his Legislative Report Email wherein he recounts 4 different pieces of legislation that were successfully passed into State Law.

President Caldera then opened a discussion on the fact that our ANNUAL REPORT includes five (5) distinct Advice Letters and/or Resolutions that the Commission forwarded to City Government for action, and the Mayor and Board of Supervisors took action on only ONE such issue, with no response whatsoever on the remaining four. He suggested the establishment of a Committee on Veterans Legislation be formed to address this problem and work to find ways to encourage more action from City Government on our Legislative Advice Letters. Thus the Committee on Veterans Related LEGISLATION, was formed, with Comm. Alfildl appointed as Chair, (See Agenda Item 8, above).

Comm. Levin then spoke of an important new Legislative Initiative Introduced by Congresswoman Jackle Speler, recently introduced as House Resolution 435 under title: Sexual Assauli Training Oversight and Prevention Act Comm. Levin requested that the Commission study this legislation and place it on the February Meeting Agenda as a potential Action Item. Comm. Levin further suggested that as an additional Agenda Action Item, the VAC consider sending a letter to the President of the BOS asking how and when the Commission can expect increased Action in response to our Advice Letters.

Agenda Item 11 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING, No further discussion as this item was covered under Agenda Item 8 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS. (above)

#### Agenda Item 12 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Ramirez pointed out that Commission appointments for three sitting Commissioners expire at the end of January. President Caldera polled the subject Commissioners as to their plans. Comm. Alfidi announced that he has already submitted his application for re-appointment. Commissioners Gibbs and Dara Wong stated that they are considering re-appointment.

## Agenda Item 13 - (Honors Report) and 14 - (Adjournment)

13. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

14. AJORNMENT. Meeting Adjourned at 8:12pm

Minutes of the 1/9/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as corrected) at the VAC Meeting of February 6, 2012.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, February 6, 2012 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

President John Caldera, Presiding

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

FFR - 1 2000

. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

3. REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item

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4. REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

a. Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 9 January, 2012 (Action item)

5. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

#### 6. Officers REPORTS:

- A. <u>President's Report</u>; President Caldera to report on meetings with various city officials and further plans for 2012 SVAC Agenda, Policies and moving forward.
- B. Vice President's Report: V.P. Alfidi to report on his efforts on behalf of Commission.
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel to report on new Commission Correspondence & Website Changes and a report on Bylaws Committee meeting.
- D. Committee Reports: Chairpersons from Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees to Report.

## 7. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

President to appoint various Commissioners as Liaison Commissioners to various outside

Commissions/Agencies/Organizations to facilitate work on new and existing VETERANS PROJECTS.

#### 8. OLD BUSINESS.

President Caldera to report on continuing efforts to acquire a full Financial paper trail (including request to Grants for the Arts) for the VETERANS DAY PARADE, of 11/11/11, as well as the San Francisco Memorial Day events for the past two years.

## 9. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

### 10. REPORTS on ONGOING ISSUES:

## a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Updates on TWO JOB FAIRS scheduled in the WM Vets Building, namely,

- The 3/2/12 Community Covenant Resource and Job Fair, and
  - The 5/16 Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair

#### b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

Brief Report from Liaison, Comm. Ramirez on his TOWN HALL MEETINGS of 1/25/12.

#### c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

#### 11 Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

Potential Action Item: Further discussion and potential MOTION by Comm. Levin to endorse and write ADVICE LETTER requesting City support for important new Legislative Initiative Initiative Initiative Congresswoman Jackie Speler, as House Resolution 3435 under title: Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act.

Potential Action Item: Discussion and potential MOTION by Comm. Levin to endorse and write ADVICE LETTER requesting City support for important new Legislation CA Senate Bill SB661 which is a Re-Write of the Bill Gov. Brown velocet, regarding a ban on Protests at Millitary Funerals.

#### 12. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

Potential Action Item: Sec'y Noetzel to submit Motion and RESOLUTION for VAC support in advocating for addition of a VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in the Retrofit Plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building.

#### 13. NEW BUSINESS

- > Establish a SFVAC Mentorship Program
- > Explore interest in hosting a Veterans Ball

#### 14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities

15. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

## 16. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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#### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

MEFTING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

## DISABILITY ACCESS

The War Memorial Veterans Building (between Grove & McAllister Streets) is wheelchair accessible via front entrance (401 Van Ness). There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Feb, 6, 2012

#### Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President John Caldera at 6:03pm, with a congratulatory announcement on the recent elevation of Comm. Alfidi to the rank of Lt. Colonel. The meeting started with the traditional Piedge of Alleglance, led by Comm. Alfidid.

#### Agenda Item 2 - Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners AlfIdi, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gibbs, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Rose, Thompson, Towers, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong. (15)

Absent: Commissioner E. Ramirez (excused, out of town). C. Gruwell, (No notice; un-excused)

Attending Guests: Mark Benton, Roger Dong, Sao Fong, Ellison Horne, Leo Madrid, Michael Maffei, JeanCharles Morris, Maria Vermiglio. City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.

### Agenda Item 3 - Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Agenda item 4 - Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the January 9, VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Levin offered corrections regarding the financial details of the Veterans Day Parade of 11/1/11. After Sec'y Noetzel agreed to incorporate all suggested changes, a MOTION to accept Minutes as written/corrected was made by Comm. Levin (2<sup>nd</sup>- Comm. Wilkerson). In a subsequent Vote the Motion to accept January 9 VAC Meeting Minutes, as corrected, passed unanimously.

## Agenda Item 5 - PUBLIC COMMENT

- > Meeting guest, Roger Dong provided a short update on the current work of the Veterans Resource Center, and requested that Commissioners take every opportunity to encourage new veterans to visit the VRC and make use of its services.
- Meeting guests Ellison Horne, and Jean Charles Morris introduced themselves as representatives of the new VETERANS MEDIA CENTER, a non-profit group dedicated to development of Media Projects designed to tell the story of Bay Area Veterans; their work, and their advocacy efforts.
- > Meeting guest Michael Maffel (a Veteran, and an Assistant District Attorney for the City), again introduced himself and expressed his interest in working to accomplish the goals of the VAC.
- > Other Guests (as above) introduced themselves and their interest in VAC projects and proceedings.

#### Agenda Item 6 - Officers Reports

A. President's Report; President Caldera reported on his a 1/17 meeting w/ City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass. He distributed copies of recent emails between members of the Commission and asked Mr. Snodgrass to once again review the rules and intent of the BROWN ACT with regard to communication between Commissioners. In doing so Mr. Snodgrass retierated that a single email message (even if directed to a majority of VAC members) does not in itself violate provisions of the Brown Act, it is likely that follow up or 'reply' to such messages ensue, the 'discussion' may lead to such violation as the public is not privy to it. Mr. Snodgrass also answered questions from various Commissioners on this subject.

>> Pres. Caldera also reported on his meetings with City Hall Building Managers on the subject of finding Meeting Space for future meetings of the VAC, in anticipation of the closure of the Veterans Building for Remodel. Sec'y Noetzel reviewed several options on potential Meeting Dates and Meeting Options. Comm. Levin suggested that Commission leadership continue to press for viable options in this area and place them on future meeting Agendas for further consideration by the full Commission.

>> Pres. Caldera also reported on a 1/24/12 meeting with Ms. Nicole Wheaton (key aide to Mayor Lee). In addition to the subject of finding suitable space for future VAC meetings, Pres. Caldera introduced the TWO major Veterans Community events scheduled in the Veterans Building this spring; those being:

- 1. The 3/2/12 S.F. Armed Forces Community Covenant Veteran's JOB & RESOURCE FAIR, and
- 2. The 5/16/12 (22<sup>nd</sup> annual) JOB FAIR run by the Calif. EDD.

Ms. Wheaton assured the VAC delegation that she would urge the Mayor to publicize these important events with full enthusiasm.

>> Pres. Caldera also reported on a 2/3/12 meeting with Board of Supervisors President David Chlu. The meeting included a review of our 2011 Annual Report, specifically those areas where the Board of Supervisors failed to respond to our Letters of Advice. Supv. Chlu reiterated that BOS policy is to avoid 'non-binding Resolutions', including those relating to pending State or Federal Legislation. In his role as BOS President, Supv. Chiu did offer to speak to members of the office of the District Altorney to advocate for research into the potential of establishment of a Veteran's Court. He also promised to publicize the two major Veterans Job Fair events at the Veterans Building this spring, including a personal promise to appear at the 3/2/12 event, and the potential of an official City Proclamation with recard to the 8/2/12 event,

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of February 6, 2012 Page 2 of 4

- <u>B. Vice President's Report's</u> V.P. Alfidi reported on the meeting w/ BOS President Chiu specifically with respect to Legislative issues (as Comm. Alfidi is also Chair of the VAC Committee on Veterans Related Legislation). He reports that the BOS has now adopted a formal structure with respect to Legislative issues. The procedure includes these elements:
  - 1. History Report, to include summary of what the VAC has done in the past with respect to the subject issue, and
  - 2. A Draft of a proposed Resolution for the BOS to consider, and.
  - 3. Completion of a new FORM designed by the BOS, to formalize Requests for Legislative Action.

Comm. AlfIdI noted that he will be utilizing these new procedures when presiding over meetings of the VAC Committee on Veterans Related Legislation. He reported that he will soon be initiating appropriate announcement protocols to set up the initial meeting of that Committee.

- >> V.P. Affidit also reported on his discovery of some statistics relevant to the potential for establishment of a Veterans Court In San Francisco including a statement (by former Sherfff Hennessey) that traditionally, between 5% and 10% of those incarcerated in the S.F. County Jail, are veterans. With a prison population of some 1700 individuals, that means that between 85 and 170 of those incarcerated at any given time, are likely VETERANS. Comm. Affidit is currently seeking further solid statistical data to support these informal numbers, however with such a demand potential, he reports that we are certainly on the right track with our advocacy for establishment of a Veterans Court here in S.F.
- >> V.P. Alfidi also reported on his discovery that there are established procedures to attain Veteran Status Preference when making application for jobs within the Sheriffs Department, including Departmental Website instructions on how to utilize this advantage.
- >> V.P. AifIdI also reported that at the request of Comm. Levin, he has volunteered to sit on the Planning Committee for the Memorial Day Events at the Presidio.
- C. Secretary's Report; Secretary Noetzel began with a review of recent Official Correspondence of the VAC, including a 1/16/12 letter from Comm. Caldera that transmitted (to Mayor and BOS), the 2011 Annual Report of the VAC. He reported that in a meeting with BOS President Chiu, we were advised that it was 'unlikely' that the BOS will act in response to Requests for Non-Binding Resolutions on Veterans Related issues or legislation.
- >> Set y Noetzel also reported on a NEW FORM that the office of the Mayor has instituted with respect to advocacy with regard to pending State Legislation. He has downloaded a copy of the new form and will be using it when the VAC calls for action on such legislative issues.

## D. Committee Reports:

Pres. Caldera reviewed the previously established Committees, those being:

Bylaws Committee: Chair: Noetzel; members - Towers, Rose, Ramirez, Wilkerson

Veterans Health and Wellness Committee: Chair: Crichlow; members - Dacumos, Caldera, Ramirez, Thompson Veterans Legislation Committee: Chair: Alfidi; members - D. Wong, R. Wong, Rose Dacumos, Towers, Thompson

Pres. Caldera encouraged all committees to operate autonomously. That is, to elect co-:chairs and/or sub-committees and add/delete members as they see fit to conduct their business. He suggested keeping maximum membership to eight (8) to avoid Brown Act commilications.

Pres. Caldera then established a NEW 'Committee'; namely the VAC WOMENS CAUCUS. He stated that the purpose of this Caucus will be to deliberate on all issues of specific interest or importance to female veterans or service-members. He announced that all female members of the Commission shall be members of this Caucus, but that male Commissioners may also join, at will. Comm. Levin then volunteered to be included in the Caucus. The Caucus now stands as A. Crichlow, D. Dacumos, D. Guy, A. Rose, D. Wong, and W. Levin. (6 members). Pres. Caldera encouraged the Caucus to elect its own Chair and to set up its initial formal meeting at their convenience.

After further general discussion on various ways for committees to accomplish their work, **President Caldera asked for a report** from the Chair of the sole Committee Meeting to date.

Chairman of the BY-LAWS COMMITTEE (Comm. S. Noetzel) then reported on a meeting of that Committee just prior to the VAC General Meeting. He mentioned that Committee Proceedings included potential suggestions to Increase the responsibilities of the Commission Vice President, however a full report will be forthcoming in the form of a set of Official Minutes of the Bylaws Committee Meeting. He offered direct assistance to any of the Chairs of additional Committees, to establish their Initial Meetings while meeting all Brown Act Requirements.

#### Agenda item 7 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

No specific ACTION ITEMS covered under this heading this month, however progress on Commission Goals and Plans are cited in this report at Agenda Item(s) 6A, 6D, 12, and 13.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of February 6, 2012 Page 3 of 4

### Agenda Item 8 - OLD BUSINESS: Veterans Day Parade

President Caldera initiated an expanded Report on his recent acquisition of Financial Reports from S.F. Grants from the Arts. He then distributed (to all Commissioners) copies of the following:

A 62 page document titled: VETERANS DAY PARADE FINANCIAL DETAILS for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011, and A 32-page document titled: MEMORIAL DAY EVENT FINANCIAL DETAILS, for the year 2011 (only).

Pres. Caldera suggested that the Commissioners TABLE further discussion at this time, to enable Commissioners to study the documents at their convenience and offer any comments they might have at the March VAC Meeting.

### Agenda Item 9/10 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

#### a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

- Comm. Crichlow reported on progress of planning for the 3/2/12 Community Covenant Resource and Job Fair to be held in the WM Vets Building. She announced that the S.F. VA Medical Center will have a presence at the event and while some financial soonsors have stepped forward, additional sponsors are still being solicited.
- > Comm. Thompson reported that plans for the 5/16 Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair in the Veterans Building are proceeding 'on-track' and invitation letters are about to be mailed.
- Press. Caldera then announced that In recent meetings with staff or the Mayor Lee's Office, and with BOS President David Chlu, the Executive Board of the Commission (Pres. VP, Sec'y) emphasized the importance of the TWO rare events for the San Francisco Veterans Community. President Caldera received strong assurances at both meetings, that City Government will be fully supportive with respect to these vents, and that all appropriate publicity (i.e. website announcement, public Proclamation, etc.) would be appropriate.

#### b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Pres. Caldera opened a discussion on the issue of VETERANS HEALTH AND WELFARE by distributing copies of an article from the new issue of the American Legion Magazine titled: WEIGHT WEIGHT DON'T TELL ME! The article is a report on the fact that like most other citizens, veterans are not taking care of their bodies and/or health as much as they should. It advocates for a return to health and exercise programs and calls on the VA to include such programs for vets. He closed by challenging the new Health and Wellness Committee to take up this issue areast in the tuture.

#### c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Gibbs reported that plans for the next Veterans Stand-down event in the east bay are ongoing. They are planning to serve at least 500 homeless and needy vets at the event. Pres. Caldera mentioned that he recently saw statistics that there are over 3000 homeless vets on the streets of SF each night, and due to the release of many incarcerated persons over the next year, that number will increase significantly. He suggested that the Commission might consider starting a Committee on Homeless Veterans Issues.

## Agenda Item 11: Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Comm. Levin opened the Agenda Action Item (Consideration of House Resolution 3435 under title: Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act. (i.e. the S.T.O.P. Act) by recounting that the VAC has a long tradition of support for Legislation that supports the elimination of discrimination within the US milltary and in the spirit of that tradition he requested support for this Federal Legislation, as recently introduced by Congresswoman Jackle Speler. Comm. Noetzel displayed a copy of a report about a recent House-Podium speech made by Rep. Speler in answer to Sec'y of Defense Panetta's hope that new internal rules within the military would preclude the need for specific legislation on this issue. Sec'y Noetzel offered a MOTION (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Levin), that the VAC endorses the subject Legislation, and that we write an ADVICE LETTER requesting City support for this important Legislation. After additional discussion, the question was called, a vote taken and the MOTION to endorse and support HR3435 passed unanimously.

Comm. Levin then opened a second Legislation Related Agenda Action Item that being consideration of CA Senate Bill SB661, a NEW Bill that Imposes restrictions against protests and Demonstrations at Military Funerals. Sec'y Noetzel offered a MOTION (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Levin), that the VAC endorses the subject Legislation, and that we write an ADVICE LETTER requesting City support for this important Legislation. During discussion, it was noted that this bill is a Re-write of an earlier Bill that was VETOED by Governor Brown as Unconstitutional. The NEW Bill includes greater Freedom of Spech protections for radical groups to spread their hateful messages while still affording adequate protection for grieving families to honor and bury their failen loved ones in private and respectful ceremony. The question was called, a vote taken and the MOTION to endorse and support S8661 passed unanimously.

Comm. Baldonado then reported on progress of House Bill 210, which the VAC supports (by its RESOLUTION of April 4, 2011. According to Comm. Baldonado, the Falrness to Filiplino Veterans Act now has garnered some 87 co-sponsors in the US House of Representatives, and what it needs now to progress is introduction of a Mirror Bill in the US Senate. He requested that the VAC consider support for such an initiative. President Caldera promised to place this item on the Agenda for the next meeting as a potential Action Item.

#### Agenda Item 12 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

Secretary Noetzel opened discussion on the Draft Resolution that he had earlier distributed on an Agenda Action Item calling to VAC support in advocating for the addition of a VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in the Retrofit Plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building. Sec'y Noetzel showed how this new inhitative Ites in earlier VAC support for the WholeVet Program, and other Heath and Wellness goals of the Commission, and offered a MOTION seeking formal support for the Resolution. Comm. Cricholiw stated that the Directors of the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Ft. Miley are Interested in this plan as they have launched new programs to deal with the Health and Wellness of area veterans after recognition that many veterans struggle with diet, nutrition, obesity, cardio, and respiration deficiencies. Moreover, Comm. Cricholiw reports that the VA Leadership are currently seeking an off-site location for development of such a Health, Wellness and Fitness Center at an OFF-SITE location, and most importantly, funds for development of such a programs have already been identified.

Comm. Crichlow then offered a Second to the Motion as stated by Sec'y Noetzel, but added a Friendly Amendment to specifically add the VA Medical Center at Ft. Miley as a partner in the Planning Meeting described in the Resolution.

Comm. Levin reminded the Commission that the American Legion War Memorial Commission (ALWMC) is the sole entity that is empowered to bring Building Use Plans to the Board of Trust for consideration. Sec'y Noetzel agreed however pointed out that Board of Trustees VP, General Michael Myatt has made a point of asking younger veterans in the building "What would YOU like to see us do with this facility?". Sec'y Noetzel added that he has every intention of bringing the very same RESOLUTION to the ALWMC for THEIR endorsement and approval AND that he intends to initiate a PETITION (as referenced in the Resolution) to gain numerous signatures from San Francisco and Bay Area Veterans in support of the construction of such a Pitness and Wellness Center in the WM Veterans Building. President Caldera then called for a vote on the MOTION to endorse and support the subject Resolution (amended to include the aforementioned VA facility. The Motion passed unanimously and the Resolution is support of Construction of a Fitness and Wellness Center in the War Memorial Veterans Building.

#### Agenda item 13 - NEW BUSINESS

<u>SFVAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM</u> President Caldera again introduced the concept of a <u>MENTORSHIP PROGRAM</u> within the Commission. He suggested that experienced Commissioners (i.e. those who have already served for a few years) could take on Mentorship of one or more of the newer Commissioners. He provided some examples of how this might work. The concept will not be a formally mandated Commission Goal, but is established as a Voluntary Program. To that end he invited any Commissioner who is interested in participating in a Mentorship Program (either as a Mentor or as a trainee) to contact him privately on the matter. He will bring it up on a future Agenda if interest is expressed.

<u>VETERANS BALL</u>. President Caldera also revisited his vision for a VETERANS BALL or another such Major Event to honor the Veterans of the City. He suggested a potential time-frame to be around Veterans Day, 2012. He again solicited suggestions and/or expressions of interest (on this matter) be brought to him in private. If no one follows up on the idea it will likely not be suggested again during this term.

#### Agenda item 14 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

By way of a special ceremony to announce and congratulate Commissioner Anthony ALFIDI on his recent promotion for his old rank of Major, to the elevated rank of the Comm. Levin presented a CAKE for Commissioners to share in celebration. Comm. Alfdi oraciously thanked Comm. Levin and the Commission.

Comm. Ray Wong announced that on Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is hosting a VOICE OF DEMOCRACY Ceremonylevent at 7.30pm at Mission High School. The event is a Patriotic Speech Contest for high school students. Commission members are welcome to attend.

Comm. Rose announced that the Veterans Student Alliance at City College of San Francisco will host a Women's' Veteran Forum on both Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, and again on Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup>. Details available on the Alliance Website.

## Agenda Item 15 - (Honors Report) and 16 - (Adjournment)

15. Honors Report, and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

16. AJORNMENT, Meeting Adjourned at 8:22pm

Minutes of the 2/6/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the VAC Meeting of March 5, 2012.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, March 5, 2012 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA President John Caldera, Presiding GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

MAR - 1 2012

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item
REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

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a. Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 6 February, 2012 (Action item)
Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

#### 1. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Caldera to report on meetings with various city officials.
- B. Vice President's Report: V.P. Alfidi to report on his efforts on behalf of Commission.
- <u>C. Secretary's Report</u>: Secretary Noetzel to report on new Commission Correspondence, Website Changes and misc. Secretarial duties.
- D. Committee Reports: Bylaws Committee Chair. Noetzel to Report on Committee Meetings. Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report. Creation of SFVAC Events and Community Relations Committee. Expectations of SVAC Committees.

#### 2. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

SEVAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

SFVAC Visibility

Potential Action Item: Support of a San Francisco Veterans/Military Ball Potential Action Item: Roll-Call Vote on moving the SFVAC meeting to SF City Hall.

## 3. OLD BUSINESS.

Open discussion on the documents distributed last month, namely:

A 62 page document titled: VETERANS DAY PARADE FINANCIAL DETAILS for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011, and

A 32-page document titled: MEMORIAL DAY EVENT FINANCIAL DETAILS, for the year 2011 (only).

The documents represent a financial paper trail (acquired from S.F. Grants for the Arts) for the subject events.

### 4. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

#### a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Comm. Crichiow (& others) to Report on the 3/2/12 Community Covenant Resource and Job Fair.

Comm. Thompson (& others) to Report on planning for the 5/16 Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair

## b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.
Brief Report from Liaison, Comm. Ramirez on most recent TOWN HALL MEETINGS.

#### c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Comm. Baldonado to report on progress of House BIII 210, which the VAC supports (by its RESOLUTION of April 4, 2011. Potential Action Item for Motion to seek support from City of S.F. Government for an additional Resolution requesting (that) Senator Feinstein initiate introduction of a Mirror BIII in the US Senate.

#### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Sec'y Noetzel to Report on progress of the February RESOLUTION of VAC support for addition of a VETERANS FTNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in the Retrofit Plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building, including related Correspondence and Passage of Mirror Resolutions from additional Commissions and Veterans Groups. Sec'y Noetzel also to expand support for this proposal with (Action Item) MOTION to incorporate a PETITION OF SUPPORT to the Resolution passed last month.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

Potential Action Item for Motion in support of a proposal for a San Francisco LGBT Veterans Memorial Grove.

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities
- Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made
  the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and armed services community.

#### 10. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at email HYPERLINK "mailto:noetzel@pacbell.net" noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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#### **PUBLIC ACCESS**

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 5, 2012

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by **President John Caldera** at 6:05pm, starting with the traditional **Piedge of Allegiance**. led by Comm. **Dottie Guv.** 

#### Dall Cal

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Gibbs, Gruwell, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Thompson, Towers, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong. (15)

Absent: Comm. D. Dacumos and Comm. A. Rose (both excused w/prior notice).

Attending Guests: Mark Benton, Roger Dong, Martl Downing, Michael Maffel, JeanCharles Morris, Patrick Watkins, Kin Wong, Patrick DI Chiro (Note: No City Attorney in attendance.)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Guy Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the February 6, VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Ramirez made MOTION to accept Minutes as written. (2<sup>nd</sup>- Comm. Baldonado). In a subsequent Vote the Motion to accept February 6, 2012 VAC Meeting Minutes, as written, passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- > Meeting guests, Michael Maffel, and Mark Benton re-introduced themselves and repeated their ongoing interest (as veterans) in the proceedings and goals of the SF VAC.
- Meeting guest Roger Dong reported on a success story from the Veterans Resource Center regarding the 'instant hiring' of a vet who needed a job. He also complimented the organizers of the 3/2/12 Community Covenant Veterans Resource fair, stating that it was the biggest and best event for veterans and military families in the building, for many years.
- > Meeting guest Jean Charles Morris, Co-Director of the Veterans Media Project. He announced that Media Center film-makers were working on a short documentary film about the 3/2/12 Job and Resource Fair.
- Meeting guest Patrick DiChiro (CEO of Thunder Factory) spoke to announce his idea for development of an Iraq Vets Welcome Home Parade here in S.F. He requested time for a full discussion of the project as an AGENDA ITEM in the April VAC meeting.
- Meeting guest Patrick Watkins (Director of VeteransStone.com) spoke to announce his idea for development of a Virtual Veterans Memorial project in the War Memorial Veterans Building. He requested time for a full discussion of the project as an AGENDA ITEM in the April VAC meeting.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Officers Reports

A. President's Report; President Caldera began his report with further commendation to Commissioners Crichlow and Ramirez and all those involved with the very successful Community Covenant Resource and Jobs fair of 3/2/12.

He also reported on a recent successful meeting with S.F. Supervisor FARREL, who is extremely supportive of the VAC and

He also reported on a recent successful meeting with S.F. Supervisor FARRELL, who is extremely supportive of the VAC a its goals and work. The Supervisor promised to be a Champion (on the BOS) in support of issues that we advocate.

B. Vice President's Report: V.P. AlfIdI reported that new data (provided by Mr. Maffal, an assistant DA for the City of S.F.), indicates that at any given time there are between 65 and 120 Veterans (of US Milliany Service) among those involved in the Criminal Justice system of the City of San Francisco – (that is), MORE than enough to justify development of the special Veterans Court that we have been advocating for. Comm. AlfIdI will continue to investigate further into this question.

Comm. AlfId also reported that he has been working on coordination of resources to insure that the Memorial Day Ceremonies

Comm. Affice also reported that he has been working on coordination of resources to insure that the Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Presdio will result in successful continuation of the annual event there, and he will continue to work with Comm. Levin to that end.

C. Secretary's Report; Secretary Noetzel also began his report with compliments on the successful 3/2 Resource and Job Fair in the Vets Building. He noted that in recent meetings both the Mayor's Office AND the Board of Supervisors had not followed trough with promises to advertise and promote the event (via their Community Events Website pages), but that BOTH had "come through" with presence and support on the day of the event.

Sec'y Noetzel also reported on the two-hour Certificate of Ethics Training Session on requirements of the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance on Tuesday Evening, the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, Six members of the Commission attended the informative training session, including President Caldera, VP Affldl, himself, and Commissioners Crichlow, Ramirez, and R. Wong and D. Wong. Sec'y Noetzel ended his report with a request for specific information with respect to the Presidio Memorial Day Activities so as to highlight this important annual event on the VAC website pages.

DOCUMENTS DEPT

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## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 5, 2012 Page 2 of 4

#### D. Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee: Chair Noetzel provided a short report on the earlier meeting of this Committee, and will have Minutes and Specific Recommendations for VAC Bylaws Changes in the next month or two.

Pres. Caldera then distributed a bocument titled Expectations of VAC Committees and encouraged each Committee Chair to organize meetings and Report on progress. He then asked Comm. Levin if he would Chair a new Committee on VAC SUPPORTED EVENTS; specifically (but not limited to) the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Events, for the purpose of insuring that a core of current Commissioners would be trained and informed as to the basic requirements for the promulgation of these events, now and going into the future. Commissioner Levin graciously accepted this responsity, and thereafter. President Caldera made specific appointments to the new VAC Events Committee, to wit. Commissioners Crichlow, Guy, Ramiriez and Wilkerson.

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Pres. Caldera also made some specific Recommendations on the leadership of the remaining Standing Committees, including advising that all Committees may establish a "Co-Chair' system of leadership, and that all Committee Chairpersons will be empowered to call Committee Meetings. He suggested that Commissioners Crichlow and Ramirez work together as Co-Chairs of the Veterans Health and Wellness Committee.

Pres. Caldera announced that after the July break, he will be expecting (during the August 2012 General VAC Meeting) a Mid-Year Report, from each Standing Committee, as part of a State of the Commission Address and Assessment.

Finally. President Caldera noted that there are three Commissioners (Baldonado, Gruwell and Gibbs) not yet assigned to any specific Standing Committee. He appointed Commissioner Baldonado to the Health and Wellness Committee, and Comm. Gruwell to the Veterans Community Relations Committee. Both accepted graciously. Comm. Gibbs then announced that his Commission term has expired, and that for personal reasons, he is not planning to seek re-appointment. President Caldera tilanited all Commissioners for their participation in these important Committee assignments.

## Agenda Item 2 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Mentorship Program, President Calders stated that response to his call (last month) for private notification of interest in participation in the mentorship program, was limited at 1 best. He announced that only several of the centry appointed Commissioners had indicated an interest. He suggested that some of the interested Commissioners fream up' to support each other, particularly in the area is) of Commission Outreach. He suggested that Commissioners Crickilow and Rose might work in dual Support: also Commissioners Ramifez and Towers: also Commissioners Dacumos and Guy.

SPLAC WISIBILITY and Potential NEW EVENT. President Caldera distributed documents related his idea for to the potential for development of a San Francisco Veterans/Military Ball. He stated that in a recent meeting with Supervisor Farrell, the Supervisor expressed interest in such a project, stating that the veterans of the city 'need more recognition for their contribution'. He reported that Supervisor Ferrell suggested the incorporation of a Veterans/Military Ball (or some alternative event to resognize the Veterans of the City] as a part of the next FLEET WEEK activities. President Caldera suggested that further development of the potential for a Veterans/Military ball, be delegated to the new Committee on VAC SUPPORTED EVENTS, and its Chair, Commissioner Levin.

Sec'y Noetzel suggested that it is not currently known how many Commissioners support the development of a Veterans/Military Ball, and more importantly, now many would be willing to work on such a project. He stated that his view was that with a number of substantive issues and projects already defined as Commission Goals and Plans for this year (Including but not limited to) the potential for public HEARINGS on the subject of Use and Allocation of Space for Veterans in the War Memorial Veterans Building already represented a formidable hard-work menu. Commissioner Levin expressed agreement with Commissioner Noetzel's caution about 'over-extension' and added that the raising of some \$25k for such an event would be a daunting task indeed. As Chair of the Event Committee, Comm. Levin asked for an opportunity to speak with General Myatt (Chair of Fleet Week Activities) and introduce the idea of a Military/Veterans Ball or some other significant event to honor the veterans of the city during Fieet Week, Comm. Alfidi also reported that Supervisor Farrell was extremely supportive of including the 'Ball' concept into Fleet Week activities. Comm. Alfidi suggested that members of the new EVENTS Committee speak with the leadership of the Marines Breakfast Club to generate further interest in the Fleet Week inclusion concept. At that point Comm. Noetzel offered a MOTION to delegate to the Events Committee, responsibility to research and develop options for an EVENT to honor current Veterans, as part of the Fleet Week schedule. (Comm. Levin 2nd). Comm. Ramirez suggested that the Commission develop a Time Line Calendar to track our commitment to major events and to schedule adequate Planning Time to insure success. At that point the question was called and a vote taken. The MOTION to refer the Veterans Ball Project to the Event Committee PASSED, (with all Yea votes save Abstention by Commissioners, D. Wong, Gibbs, and Towers).

FUTURE VAC MEETING LOCATION. President Caldera reported that when this subject was broached at the meeting with Supir Fairell, the Supervisor strongly agreed with the 'out of sight-out of mind' concept. That is to gain or retain visibility, and importance in the eyes of City Government, it would behoove the Commission to find Meeting Space within City Hall. President Caldera reviewed the current Potential Options for future meeting space, those being (1) Somewhere in CITY HALL, (or 2), somewhere in the OPERA HOUSE, (or 3) somewhere in the MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 5, 2012 Page 3 of 4

Several Commissioners took time to express their opinion that finding meeting space within City Hall was imperative to the visibility of the VAC. Pres. Caldera announced currently available DATES of availability of the primary City Hall Hearing Room (416); those being the FIRST TUESDAY of each month, or the 9"d TUESDAY. Unfortunately at present the YOUTH COMMISSION meets in that space on the First Monday of every month. President Caldera said that he is currently looking into the possibility that the Youth Commission might consider giving up their 'First Monday' use of 416 in favor of an alternate date. but could not speculate on the likelihood.

Sec'y Noetzel expressed his personal view that retention of the 'First Monday' meeting schedule was more important (to him) than the eventual Meeting Space Location. Comm. Levin pointed out that Commissioners sought appointment to the VAC partially on the knowledge that meetings were held on First Monday Night of the month.

After considerable further discussion, Comm. Levin pointed out that while finding a 'new home' should be accomplished within the next 3 months (or so), however we should not rush to make a decision until all pertinent information was available. President Caldera then agreed to TABLE this matter until all pertinent information was acquired, and further requested that each Commissioner notify him if there are (any) SPECIFIC evenings of the week that they would not be available for regular meetings.

#### Agenda Item 3 - OLD BUSINESS: Veterans Day Parade

President Caldera initiated discussion on the documents distributed last month; specifically:

- > A 62 page document titled: VETERANS DAY PARADE FINANCIAL DETAILS for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011, and
- > A 32-page document titled: MEMORIAL DAY EVENT FINANCIAL DETAILS, for the year 2011 (only).

He reminded the Commission that the documents represent a financial paper trail (acquired from S.F. Grants for the Arts) for the subject events, and that they had been distributed for information purposes, and to indicate the amount of work (and associated costs) involved in planning and arranging both the Presidio Memorial Day Event, as well as the Veterans Day Parade.

Sec'y Noetzel stated that he had studied the documents thoroughly and aside from noting that the Memorial Day document covered information for the year 2011 only...he saw no reason to criticize any of the financial data therein, but rather complimented Comm. Levin on his handling of associated costs for the annual Memorial Day event – and even more particularly for insuring that expenses for the last Veterans Day Parade were reasonable in every aspect, and included no pay-out to anyone who worked on parade planning or direction.

President Caldera asked if there were further comments or suggestions with respect to this matter, and hearing none considered the REVIEW of the provided documents closed.

# Agenda Item 4 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Comm. Crichlow began her primary report on the 3/2/12 Community Covenant Resource and Job Fair by thanking all those who helped make the day a success, and by reporting that while the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors did not come through with the promised pre-Event publicity, BOTH entities were well represented at the event itself. Any Lee was represented by Mr. Bevan Dufty who spoke to bring greetings and compliments from the Office of the Mayor, and BOS President David Chiu spoke to do the same on behalf of the entire Board. Comm. Crichlow reported that over 400 participants attended the day-long event, and that the building was filled with productive activity throughout the entire day.

Comm. Ramirez (another member of the event Planning Committee) added his thanks, and provided some primary statistics, stating that some 55 vendors (I.e. Service Providers) attended and participated, including some 25 Employers. Additional Resource vendors included tables for all Bay Area Colleges and Universities (public and Private), and within the Corporate ranks, numerous Résumé's were circulated; initial employment Interviews conducted (including 2 veterans "hired on the spot"), and at least 6 veterans were signed up for VA services. In short, an extremely successful Event, by any standard of measurement.

Comm. Thompson reported that planning for the 5/16 Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Falr were continuing 'on track', and that they expected to present another successful full-day event for the benefit of area veterans – in the War Memorial Veterans Bullding, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

## b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Comm. RamIrez reported that the VA is currently holding a series of meetings with regard to new programs effecting veterans needs in the areas of Health and Wellness.

He also reported that he is now active as a member of the new State of California Inter Agency on Veterans Issues and recently went to Sacramento where the group announced a comprehensive plan for coordination of veterans services in Housing, Education Employment, and Health. Owing to his attendance at these meetings he delegated responsibility for running the last veterans TOWN HALL MEETING to Comm. Crichlow, who reported successful meetings on the 29th of February.

Comm. Crichlow also took the opportunity to announce the Re-Start of the WholeVets program, now operating under slightly modified protocols, starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 5, 2012 Page 4 of 4

### c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Glbbs reported that plans for the next East Bay STAND-DOWN to serve homeless yets continue for the 13th - 15th of September 2012, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

#### Agenda Item 5: Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Comm. Baldonado reported on progress of House BIII 210, which the VAC supports (by its RESOLUTION of April 4, 2011, He mentioned that House Bill 210 currently has some 88 co-sponsors in the lower House, but what is needed now is a companion Bill initiated within the US Senate.

Comm. Noetzel then made a MOTION that we pass a SECOND RESOLUTION on this matter, to Advise the City Government of San Francisco to support a US SENATE version of the House Bill, so that this matter can move forward to passage. (Comm. Baldonado 2<sup>nd</sup>). In discussion Comm. LevIn suggested that said letter should include copies to both California US Senators (i.e. Feinstein & Boxer). With minimal further discussion, a vote was taken and the MOTION to pass a Second Resolution. urging the US Senate to initiate its version of the Fairness to Filipino Veterans PASSED, (with all Yea votes save Abstention by Commissioners, D. Wong, and R. Wong).

#### Agenda Item 6 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in WM Veterans Building Remodel Plan.

Sec'v Noetzel reported on progress of the February RESOLUTION of VAC support for addition of a VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in the Retrofit Plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building has now evolved to a JOINT RESOLUTION in that it has, by this date, been fully endorsed by no less than THREE additional Veterans organizations. including....by vote at its meeting of 21 February 2012, unanimous passage by the AMERICAN LEGION WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION. Also at that meeting the accompanying PETITION was launched, and at this point the petition continues to be circulated and numerous veterans have signed in support of the Resolution. Comm. Noetzel then made a MOTION calling for VAC support of the Petition as a tool to support the Resolution, (2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Baldonado). In discussion Comm. Levin asked if the City Attorney has approved this Petition Strategy. Comm. Noetzel replied 'not yet' and agreed to amend his MOTION to add "pending approval by the office of the City Attorney". Comm. Ramirez asked to see a copy of the Resolution/petition. Copies were distributed to all. On review, Comm. Ramirez contended that management of the VA Center (Ft. Miley) was not aware of this effort and their support could not (at this point) be assumed. After considerable additional discussion on the Petition, President Caldera agreed that there are items in this issue that still required resolution and clarification and with that he ruled that the MOTION shall be tabled until such time as all outstanding questions are resolved.

#### Agenda Item 7 - NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to support development of a San Francisco LGBT Veterans Memorial

President Caldera introduced this proposal as an Action Item seeking support of the VAC in ongoing efforts to develop the subject Veterans Memorial in the Castro area of San Francisco, After further information on the continuing groundwork for the project was described, Comm. Noetzel made a MOTION that the VAC endorse and support this project with an Advice Letter to City Government to that effect. (2nd Comm. Levin). After brief discussion a VOTE was taken and the MOTION for VAC endorsement and support for the establishment of the LGBT Veterans Memorial PASSED (with all Yea votes save Abstention by Comm. Gibbs).

#### Agenda Item 8 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > Comm. Crichlow reminded all that the ongoing AMVETS program to feed Homeless Veterans every Sunday (in the Veterans Building) is continuing, and that volunteer effort to help in this service is needed and much appreciated.
- > Comm. Towers announced that Swords to Plowshares is supporting a two-day Business and Application Development Competition called "Hackathon". It will be held at ADOBE Corp. in S.F. on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Details available on Swords to Plowshares website.

## Agenda Item 9 - (Honors Report) and 10 - (Adjournment)

9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

10. AJORNMENT. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes of the 3/5/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as corrected) at the VAC Meeting of April 2, 2012.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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Monday, April 2, 2012 6:00pm

MEETING AGENDA

President John Caldera, Presiding

MAR 2 8 2012

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item

REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

a. Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 5 March, 2012 (Action item)

Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

## 1. Officers REPORTS:

- A. <u>President's Report</u>; President Caldera to report on meetings with various city officials, and a Report on meeting
  with the San Francisco Office of Citizens Complaints.
- B. Vice President's Report: V.P. Alfild to report on his efforts on behalf of Commission.
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel to report on new Commission Correspondence, Website Changes and misc. Secretarial duties.

## D. Committee Reports:

Bylaws Committee Chair. Noetzel to Report on Committee Meetings.

Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report.

## 2. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. Guest Patrick DiChiro (CEO of Thunder Factory) will present his concept and plan for development of a Iraq Vets Welcome Home Parade here In S.F. Potential ACTION ITEM.

B. Guest Patrick Watklins to present his concept and plan for development of an Interactive Virtual Veterans Memorial at the War Memorial Veterans Building. Potential ACTION ITEM.

#### 3. OLD BUSINESS.

Contingency plans for SFVAC meetings during the San Francisco Veterans War Memorial Building retrofit.

Potential ACTION ITEM.

## 4. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

#### a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Comm. Thompson (& others) to Report on planning for the 5/16 Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

Brief Report from Liaison, Comm. RamIrez on most recent TOWN HALL MEETINGS.

c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

## 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Sec'y Noetzel to Report on progress of the February RESOLUTION of VAC support for addition of a VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in the Retroit Plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building, including related Correspondence and Passage of Mirror Resolutions from additional Commissions and Veterans Groups.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Potential Action Item for Motion in support of a proposal for a San Francisco LGBT Veterans Memorial Grove.
- 2. Potential Action Item for Resolution on issue of Obesity within Veterans Community.
- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made

the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.

#### 10. AJORNMENT

This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of April 2, 2012

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by **President John Caldera** at 6:01pm, starting with the traditional **Pledge of Alleglance**, led by **Comm. Raymond Wong** 

#### Roll Cal

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfildl, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Guy, Noetzel, Ramirez, Thompson, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong, (12)

Absent: Comm. G. Gibbs, C. Gruwell, W. Levin, and Comm. A. Rose (all excused w/prior notice). Also absent (no notice, unexcused, Comm. J. Towers.

Attending Guests: Neison Lum, Roger Dong, Michael Maffel, JeanCharles Morris, Ellison Horne, Leo Madrid, Patrick Watkins, Kin Wong, Bill Creighton, Paul Cox. (Note: No City Attorney in attendance.)

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the March 5, VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Alfidi made MOTION to accept Minutes as written. (2nd., Comm. Ramirez). After a minor correction suggested and accepted in discussion, a Vote to accept March 5, 2012 VAC Meeting Minutes, as corrected, passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- > Meeting guest Roger Dong reported that the Veterans Resource Center has recently facilitated the hiring of TWO veterans. He added that the new VCR Website should be up and running in approx. 2 weeks.
- > All other Meeting guests introduced themselves and expressed ongoing interest in the proceedings of the Commission.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Officers Reports

A. <u>President's Report</u>: President Caldera began his report by thanking Comm. Crichlow and Comm. Levin for joining him at his 3/13 meetling with Ms. Nicole Wheaton of the Mayor's office. Pres. Caldera then distributed copies of a 7-page historical document regarding earlier American Legion proceedings against Mr. Michael Gerold, and cautioned the Commission that Mr. Gerold continues to make highly questionable assertions with respect to his personal history and his already censured activities while representing himself as a leader within the California American Legion. Pres. Caldera also distributed copies of a 20-page historical document regarding State of California proceedings against Mr. LeRub J. Grim, a former ALWMC Commissioner, now undergoing State of California disbarment proceedings for numerous law-practice violations. He cautioned all members of the Commission to be vigilant in seeking out and reporting any and every incident where individuals seem to be taking advantage of their status as veterans, for personal, and possibly Illegal personal benefit.

President Caldera also noted that aside from meetings of the Bylaws Committee, none of the other appointed Standing Committees has met, to date. He also took the opportunity to appoint Commissioner DOTTIE GUY as Chair of the Women's Caucus (Committee).

Citing the heavy family responsibilities of current Chair VAC EVENTS Committee Wallace Levin, President Caldera also took the opportunity to appoint Comm. Wilkerson as Co-Chair to work with Comm. Levin on this important Committee. Both newly appointed Commissioners accepted their new responsibilities graciously.

8. Vice President's Report: V.P. Alfidi reported on continuing planning and arrangements for the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Presidio this year. Plans for the Color Guard and a military aircraft 'fly-over' are well underway. Comm. Alfidi also reported on the March 24/25 'Hackathon' event that he and Comm. Towers attended. This was a successful two-day Business and Application Development Competition sponsored by ADOBE Corp. which provided career development opportunities for area veterans.

Q. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel reported on his efforts to facilitate various initiatives for the Memortal Day event at the Presidio, including potential for special recognition of return of US troops from Iraq, and special a Memorial for those who died in that conflict (as suggested by Mr. Patrick DIChiro.)

A. Potential ACTION ITEM. Consideration of an Iraq Vets Welcome Home Parade here in S.F. This item was DELETED at the request of initiator, Mr. Patrick DiChiro (Se alternate suggestion it item 1C, above).

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#### Agenda item 2 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

B. Potential ACTION ITEM. Guest GeneCharles Morris, Co-Director of the Veterans Media Project (now operating in the Veterans Building), Introduced Mr. Patrick Watkins (CEO of VeteransStone Corp.) who made a formal presentation his concept and plan for development of an interactive Virtual Veterans Memorial at the War Memorial Veterans Building. The project would use 'Smart Phone Technology' to bring to individual users, an Electronic 'file' on the War Memorial Veterans Building. The FILE would potentially include information on the history of the Building, What it means and What it Memorializes, as well as links to what Veterans and Patriotic Organizations operate within the building, After a full presentation, President Caldera suggested that while this seems to be a worthy project, the proper organization to determine viability of development of this program would be the ALWMC (American Leglon War Memorial Commission). The presenters agreed and now plan to make a formal presentation to that Commission. No further action was taken.

#### Agenda Item 3 - OLD BUSINESS - FUTURE VAC MEETING LOCATION

Potential ACTION ITEM. Contingency plans for SFVAC meetings during the San Francisco Veterans War Memorial Building retrofit. President Caldera reported on his most recent research into this important question, including recognition that the potential of holding VAC meetings at the Board of Trustees Conference Room at the War Memorial OPERA HOUSE is not viable due to security issues.

President Caldera then shifted to the potential of holding meetings at the Main Public Library Building. While their basic Operating Hours limit use of Public Meeting Rooms to 6:00pm, there is an option of extended use during evening hours, however a slanfilcant cost is involved. This option is therefore also precluded.

President Caldera then spoke of the possibility of meeting in the Mayor's Conference Room, but further negotiations regarding time and date of regular meetings would have to be further researched. He mentioned that this is also the case for the only other potential City Hall Meeting Space (i.e. the Primary Hearing Room 416). Comm. Noetzel then reiterated his opinion that retention of the 'First Monday' Meeting Schedule is of primary consideration. He asked Pres. Caldera if he had received any response to his call for private notification if Commissioners were unable to meet on alternative evenings on a regular basis. President Caldera responded that he had not heard such objection in private conversation with individual Commissioners, but rather most agreed that a presence at City Hall would be a primary consideration. Comm. Citchlow and other Commissioners offered strong agreement that a City Hall 'presence' is of primary importance.

President Caldera then ruled that we would once again table this issue until next meeting, at which time he will present a menu of all possible regular Meeting Dates/Times within City Hall.

### Agenda Item 4 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

#### a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT and Job Fairs

Comm. Thompson reported that planning for the Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair was in the process of Re-Evaluation for a potential CHANGE in DATE. The annual event had been scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> of May in the War Memorial Veterans Building, however due to limits in funding, the Planning Committee is meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April to re-evaluate. Current plans are to establish a new date in June.

Comm. Crichlow and Comm. Ramirez opened discussion on the potential for operating some form of annual JOB FAIR under auspices of the VAC. President Caldera agreed and suggested this idea be referred to the proceedings of the EVENTS Committee.

#### b. Veterans TOWN HALL Meetings

Comm. Ramirez reported that the latest Town Hall Meeting (on 3/28/12) once again showed continuing growth and success as the morning session included almost 50 attendees. Afternoon sessions remain more static with about 22 attendees. Comm. Ramirez also distributed sample information Packets to all Commissioners present. The Packet (produced by CA-EDD) includes information for employers to help them take advantage of available tax credit(s) when hiring veterans, and other helpful info. Comm. Ramirez also announced that NARAL (Nat'l Archives and Records Administration) has recovered many of the records lost in a fire some time ago. The new National Phone Number to Initiate Records Search, is 314-801-0800. Comm. Ramirez also announced that he will be presenting his "How to Get a Government Job" workshop at various littlessfocations in the next few weeks.

#### c. HOMELESS Veterans.

No Report this month on this issue as Lead Commissioner G. Gibbs was not in attendance

#### Agenda Item 5: Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Comm. Alfidi. Chair of the Veterans Legislation Committee had no new information in this area at this time.

### Agenda Item 6 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in WM Veterans Building Remodel Plan.

Sec'y Noetzel reported that there were no new recent developments with respect to the JOINT RESOLUTION in support of the development of plans for a VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in the Retrofit Plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building.

#### Agenda Item 7 - NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to support development of a San Francisco LGBT Veterans Memorial

President Caldera reported on progress on this initiative which was passed by the Commission last month. After a series of challenging communication efforts, President Caldera is now seeking an opportunity to present the proposal for a San Francisco LGBT Veterans Memorlal at the next board meeting of MUMC (Merchants of Upper Market/Castro) and will report again after that meeting. No further action at this time.

#### Initiative to address Chronic Obesity within the Veterans Community.

President Caldera then introduced another new issue for consideration by the Commission, that being the problem of Obesity within the veteran's community. He distributed a 16-page document which started with his DRAFT RESOLUTION calling for establishment of an Obesity Awareness Day in San Francisco. In addition, the document includes a full array of documentation regarding the severity of this problem, including (but not limited to:

- > Obesity within Veterans Community higher than general population.
- > Information on new VA Weight Management program (known as) MOVE!
- > Connection between Obesity and PTSD.
- > Patterns of Addiction to prescription drugs among veterans being treated for PTSD, Obesity, Weight Management.
- President Caldera advised the Commission that he is currently including the initiative for establishment for an **Obesity Awareness**Day In San Francisco at all meetings with San Francisco Supervisors.

Comm. Crichlow suggested that that perhaps First Lady Michelle Obama might be "copied in" to an Advice Letter to City Leaders with respect to establishment of a San Francisco Obesity Awareness Day.

Comm. Alfull suggested that the Introduction of our support for a Fitness Center within the War Memorial Veterans Building might well be included in the Resolution. Comm. Noetzel agreed and President Caldera agreed to amend the draft to include this element. Other Commissioners suggested consolidation of some of the 'Whereas' portions of the original Resolution Draft. With that, President Caldera TABLED any action on the matter until next month when the Resolution will be re-introduced with inclusion of all suggestions, as above.

### Agenda Item 8 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Ramírez announced that the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs will be visiting San Francisco on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Comm. Ramírez is working with others to develop an ambitious itlnerary for this important visit. In addition to a visit to the VA Med. Center at Ft. Miley, itinerary suggestions include a visit to the War Memorial Veterans Building (Swords to Plowshares offices? American Legion? ALVMIC?) and hopefully an opportunity to meet with City Officials. He asked for suggestions/nput for the Itlnerary, which will be disseminated when finalized.

Comm. Ramirez also announced that the LULAC Convention (League of United Latin American Citizens) will be held on May 8-10 in Sacramento. The event will include a Military Service component.

### Agenda Item 9 - (Honors Report) and 10 - (Adjournment)

9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

10. AJORNMENT. Meeting Adjourned at 7:21pm

Minutes of the 4/2/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the VAC Meeting of April 7, 2012.



## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

> Monday, May 7, 2012 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA President John Caldera, Presiding

DOCUMENTS DEPT

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item

REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

Beview of Sec's Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 4 April, 2012 (Action item)

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

## 1. Officers REPORTS:

- A. <u>President's Report</u>; President Caldera to report on meetings with various city officials and update on the creation of an LGBT Veterans Grove.
- B. Vice President's Report: V.P. Alfidi to report on his efforts on behalf of Commission.
- <u>C. Secretary's Report</u>: Secretary Noetzel to report on new Commission Correspondence, Website Changes and misc. Secretarial duties.

#### D. Committee Reports:

Bylaws Committee Chair. Noetzel to Report on Bylaws Committee . Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report.

#### 2. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Guest Bevan Dufty to make presentation on his efforts as director of HOPE (Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement), and its potential for collaboration with the Veterans Community.

## 3. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. Contingency plans for SFVAC meetings during the San Francisco Veterans War Memorial Building retrofit.
   Potential ACTION ITEM.
- B. Resolution on issue of Obesity within Veterans Community. Potential Action Item.

#### 4. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

## a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Comm. Thompson (& others) to Report on NEW DATE for Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

Brief Report from Liaison, Comm. Ramirez on most recent TOWN HALL MEETINGS of 4/25/12 and on the 5/2 San Francisco visit of the California Director of Veterans Affairs, and on the upcoming LULAC Convention in Sacramento. c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

## 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Sec'y Noetzel to Report and distribute copies of recent VAC letters regarding Veterans Legislation.

## 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Sec'y Noetzel to Report on progress of the February RESOLUTION of VAC support for addition of a VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in the Retrofit Plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building, including related Correspondence and Passage of Mirror Resolutions from additional Commissions and Veterans Groups.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of SVAC Endorsement of Support for Initiative to name US Naval ship THE USS HARVEY MILK. Potential Action Item.

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.

10. AJORNMENT

This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

## PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public records are covered under that State of California Brown Act, as well that the SUNSHINE ORDINANCE of the City of San Francisco. The 'Sunshine Act' assures that deliberations of City Business are conducted "before the people", and that City operations are open to the people's review.

For information on your rights under the Sunshine ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Mr. Chris RUSTON, Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at telephone # 415-554-7724.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS**

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

# **DISABILITY ACCESS**

The War Memorial Veterans Building (between Grove & McAllister Streets) is wheelchair accessible via front entrance (401 Van Ness). There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 7, 2012

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by **President John Caldera** at 6:07pm, starting with the traditional **Pledge of Allegiance**, led by **Comm. Noetzel** 

#### Roll Ca

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Alfidi, Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gibbs, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Thompson, Towers, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong. (15)

Absent: Comm. C. Gruwell (no notice, unexcused.)

Note: with the 3/3/12 Resignation of Comm. Amber Rose, Commission strength now at 16 active members, 1 vacancy.

Attending Guests: Ellison Horne, Latonia Dixon, Bevan Dufty, JeanChas Morris, Jim Dorenkott, Nathan Dowds, Ann Weeby, Jeffrey Taylor, Leo Madrid, Raz Razwick, (Note: No City Attorney in attendance.)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Baldonado; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Dacumos. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the April 2, VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Towers made MOTION to accept Minutes as written, (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Crichlow). Without further discussion or correction a Vote to accept April 2, 2012 VAC Meeting Minutes, as written, passed unanimously

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Each of the Meeting guests (as listed above) introduced themselves and expressed ongoing interest in the proceedings of the Commission

## Agenda Item 1 - Officers Reports

<u>President's Report</u>: President Caldera presented a short report on the project to establish creation of an LGBT Veterans Memorial Grove near the Castro MUNI Station. He reports that several business associations in the Castro District are developing support for this project.

- B. Vice President's Report: V.P. Alfidl reported that American Legion has scheduled a Joint Posts Hearing at the War Memorial Veterans Building on 5/21/12. The hearing will address the significant VA Claims backlog here in the Bay Area. Local Directors of the VA, and Representatives of the offices of Congresswoman Jackl Speler are scheduled to attend, and attending veterans will have opportunity to speak out on this important issue.
- C. Secretary's Report; Secretary Noetzel reported that by use of a Cover Letter, to transmit to Mayor Lee and all members Board of Supervisors, TWO important Advice Letters signed by President Caldera. They are:
- > A 4/25/12 letter to BOS President David Chiu on the subject: Resolution in support of Senate Companion Bill to match House Version of Filipino Veterans Fairness Act, and,
- > A 4/30/12 letter to Mayor Ed Lee on the subject: Resolution is support of a Fitness and Wellness Center in the War Memorial Veterans Building.

## Note: Subject letters were authorized by the SFVAC in recent meetings.

Sec'y Noetzel also reported on VAC Website Updates, which include an announcement of the 5/15/12 Career Fair at St. Mary's Cathedral, and full info on the 5/28/12 Memorial Day event at the Presidio.

<u>D. Committee Reports</u>: Bylaws Committee Chair. Noetzel reported that the Bylaws Committee met for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time just prior to the meeting and that additional progress on suggested Bylaws Changes were agreed upon, but more work must be done at future Committee meetings before full Report to the Commission can be achieved.

#### Agenda Item 2 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

President Caldera introduced Special Guest Bevan Dufty, Director of HOPE (Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagemen), Mr. Dufty thanked the Commission for an opportunity to present to the Commission, Mayor Lee's program to address the issue of homelessness in San Francisco (in general), and more specifically the potential for collaboration within the Veterans Community – to address the Issue of Homeless Veterans. Mr. Dufty reported that despite the expected placement of some 75 currently Homeless Veterans in the new Oils Street facility expected this year, this will not solve the housing problem for the estimated 300 Homeless Veterans in the city. He announced a new initiative based on a collaboration with the Home Depot Foundation whereby a potential for an additional 200 units of Housing might be made available to Priority Applicants, such as Homeless Veterans and their families, in the Spring of 2013.

Mr. Dufty also spoke of the potential for using special (City) Tax incentives for Corporations, in exchange for commitments to hire Veterans. Mr. Dufty closed his presentation with announcement of 2 new and unique initiatives that he is currently working on, those being:

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 7, 2012 Page 2 of 3

- > Use the 311 system to administer a "reservations system" to guarantee overnight housing for homeless citizens, and
- > Development of an innovative program to match, appropriate homeless citizens with local Pet Adoption programs. The Commission thanked, HOPE Director Dufty for his fine presentation with a round of applause.

#### Agenda item 3 - OLD BUSINESS

A. Future SFVAC Meeting Location: (Potential Action Nem. President Caldera reported that the City Hall Space Management Planner (Mr. Rowand Lane) recently informed him that the schedule for monthly availability of Conference Room 416 was currently in flux: He therefore rejuctantly Tabled further discussion on this item until the June VAC Meeting when new schedules will hopefully be available. As part of this Agenda Item. President Caldera expressed his strong opinion that the SFVAC should seek to acquire permanent Office Space within City Hall. (2<sup>rd</sup> by Comm. Baldonado). After further discussion on the potential for use of office space for Commission Business, the Question was called and a Vote was taken. The Motion carried (with Abstentions by Commissioners Towers, Crichlow, and Levin). By this majority vote. President Caldera is now authorized to Space for the SFVAC, in City Hall.

B. Resolution on the issue of Obesity within the Veterans Community. (Potential Action Item). President Caldera thanked the Commission for their input and sensitivity to this delicate Health Issue. He then distributed copies of three (3) Draft Resolutions for consideration and discussion, those being (1) the original Caldera Resolution, (2) an edited version of that draft, by Sec y, Noetzel, and (3) a Draft Resolution by Supervisor Scott Wiener.

Commissioner Towers pointed ogut that since all of these Resolutions advocate for the establishment of an official Obesity Awareness Day, the Issue should be taken up by the SFVAC Committee on Legislation. He then offered a Motion to refer this item back to Committee, (2° by Comm. Levin).

In opening discussion, Comm. Levin offered opinion that we would be well advised to steer clear of the word 'Obesity' in favor of a Resolution to promote "Good Health Practices" (i.e. Nutrition, Diet, and Fitness).

Comm. Noetzel stated that there is no reason to 'shy away' from the term 'obesty', as the issue is now in full discussion in the media, including a major new NPR program addressing Obesity in America. He also mentioned that in addition to Supervisor Weiner, other Supervisors are ready to move on a Resolution to establish a San Francisco "Obesity Awareness Day" President Caldera added that his Resolution is written in strict Clinical Language, specifically to avoid any potential for offendin sensibilities on the nuestion of Obesity.

Comm. Crichlow added a suggestion that the Resolution should include support for the established Veterans Health Administration Programs on Health/Obesity Issues

Comm. Alfidl expressed support for the Motion to refer the issue to the Legislative Committee

Comm. Towers expressed opinion that Referral (back to Committee) would Empower' the Committee system and thereby provide an expanded voice of the Commission on the issue.

Comm. Levin recommended that prior to discussion of a new issue with members of the BOS or City Administration it might be preferable to establish an official position of the VAC on the matter.

Comm. Gibbs pointed out that the issue was not new to the Commission, and that Minutes of the April Meeting clearly indicate extensive discussion and consideration of the issue.

Comm. Ramirez expressed opinion that the Commission "should be working together" on this (and other) issues, rather than unilateral discussions that might be seen as Personal Agenda items.

After a full discussion, President Caldera Called the Question and a Vote was taken on Comm. Towers' Motion to send this issue to Legislative Committee for further development. The motion passed unanimously. The issue to advocate for establishment of an Obestiv Awareness Day in San Francisco will now be considered by the Legistive Committee.

## Agenda Item 4 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT and Job Fairs

Comm. Thompson reported that the long-planned Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair has been moved to THURSDAY the 21<sup>st</sup> of JUNE. From 10:00am to 2:00pm. The 22<sup>st</sup> annual jub Fair will be held in the War Memorial Veterans Building. The May Planning Meeting for the event is scheduled for 12 noon on Monday the 14<sup>st</sup> of the 10.

## b. Veterans TOWN HALL Meetings (and CalVet Contingency visit to San Francisco)

- Comm. Ramirez reported that the latest Town Hall Meeting (on 4/25/12) once again showed continuing growth and success
   Comm. Ramirez also reported on the 5/2/12 visit to San Francisco by the Secretary of the California Department of
- Veterans Affairs (aka CalVet), Mr. Peter Gravett, along with key members of his administration, including Ms. Lindsey Wathen Deputy Secretary, Women Veterans Affairs, and Mr. Lee Gutierrez, Deputy Secretary Minority Veterans Affairs.

  Comm. Remirez reported that Ms. Wathen held a successful forum on issues of particular interest to Women Veterans (with over 20 female veterans attending).

The visit by the CalVet contingency also included:

- A tour of the War Memorial Veterans Building, including a visit to the Veterans Resource Center
- A visit to the office of the Mayor.
- A meeting with the Director, and key Staff members, of the VA Medical Center at Ft. Miley

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 7, 2012 Page 3 of 3

#### c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Lead Commissioner Gibbs reported that planning continues for the East Bay Veterans "Stand-down". This 4-day Event (at the Alameda Fair Grounds), on September 13 through 16, 2012, will provide primary services for all bay-area Homeless Veterans.

#### Agenda Item 5: Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

After distributing copies of a Letter to Board of Supervisors President David Cilu (Re: Resolution in support of Senate Companion Bill to match House Version of Filipino Veteratan Fainness Act, dated 1 May, 2012; signed by President Caldera), Sec'y Noetzel noted that copies of the letter were sent to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, in the hope that they might take action and draft the requested Senate Bill. Comm. Baldonado thanked the VAC leadership for following up on this important matter

#### Agenda Item 6 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

VETERANS FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER in WM Veterans Building Remodel Plan.

After distributing copies of a Letter to Mayor Lee (Re: Resolution in support of Construction of a Fitness and Wellness Center In the War Memorial Veterans Building, dated 30 April, 2012; signed by President Caldera), Sec'y Noetzel noted that separate copies of the letter were sent to each of the 11 members of the Board of Supervisors, under a 'cover letter' that detailed all recent business of the Commission. Since the thrust of the letter is to enlist the help of City Government in facilitating a Joint Meeting of 'all relevant parties with a stake in the future of the War memorial Veterans Building', the plan is to follow-up on this request to generate support for such a meeting.

#### Agenda Item 7 - NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for SFVAC Endorsement of Initiative to name US Naval ship THE USS HARVEY MILK.

In opening discussion on this potential Agenda Action Item, **President Caldera** distributed a 13-page packet of information relevant to this issue, including:

- A Draft Resolution (written by Comm. Caldera), titled: Resolution supporting the Christening of a US Navy Ship after San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, and
- A Draft Resolution (written by Supervisor Scott Weiner), titled: Resolution urging the Secretary of the Navy to christen a ship as the "USS Harvey Milk".

After some introductory remarks by President Caldera, Comm. Levin offered a Motion that we consider endorsement and support for the Welner Resolution. (2<sup>nd</sup>. Comm. Noetzel). In subsequent discussion, Comm. Alfidi spoke up to question the naming military ships after politicians, pointing out that a potential result might be that a US Naval vessel exists in divisive controversy. He suggested that if the Commissions' intent was to honor a veteran of the LGBT community, a more appropriate historical figure milght be Baron von Steuban, an opened homosexual who served the US valiantly during the Revolutionary war in many capacities, including Chief of Staff to General George Washington.

After considerable further discussion, the Question was called and a vote was taken. The Levin Motion Passed with a strong majority voting Yea, Comm. Alfidi voting Nay, and one abstention. As a result, the President will author an Advice Letter informing Supervisor Wiener and City Government of SFVAC support for the Wiener Resolution.

#### Agenda Item 8 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > Announcement from Comm. Ramirez; On 5/8/12, there will be a Forum on Veteran Mental Health issues at the SF VA Medical Center.
- > Announcement from Comm. Crichlow: On 5/9/12 Swords to Plowshares will host it's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 'SHOUTI' event, in support of Art created by Women Veterans. (6:00pm to 10:00pm at the Women's Building, 3543 18<sup>th</sup> St. S.F. CA 94110)
- Announcement from Comm. Levin: On 5/10/12 there will be a ceremony to name the 'horseshoe drive' (between Opera House and War Memorial Building) In honor of George Schultz for his contributions to the success of the Veterans War Memorial at that location.
- Announcement from (guest) Glen Razwick: On 5/13/12 there will be daylong Symposium on the subject: "Challenges and Solutions in the Addiction Field Today". Location is the UCSF Campus at Mission Bay. Full details available at: http://conta.cc/June13Symposium
- > Announcement from Comm. Crichlow: On 5/16/12 CalVet will run a 'Walk & Roll' event in support of Homeless vets and Health promotion. Details available on VA2K website.
- > Announcement from Comm. Wilkerson: Volunteers are needed at the VA Hospital at Ft. Miley, to escort patients (often in wheelchairs) to areas within the vast Medical Center. Contact Volunteer Services Office at the VAMC for full info.
- > Announcement from Comm. Levin: On 5/28/12 (Memorial Day), the 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidio of San Francisco Memorial Day event will start at 10:00am. Full details and Event Program will be available on the official website; www.presidio.goy/calendar
- > Announcement from (guest) Latonia Dixon: On 7/3-4/12 the Northern California Veterans Art Guild will present an Art
  Opening, welcoming Military Women and Men Back Home from Irag. Further details TBA.

Agenda Item 9 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community. 10. AJORNIENT. Meeting Adjourned at 7:57pm

Minutes of the 5/7/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the VAC Meeting of June 4, 2012.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

## Monday, June 4, 2012 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA President John Caldera, Presiding

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

a. Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 4 May, 2012 (Action Item)
Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

#### 1. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report: President Caldera
- B. Vice President's Report: V.P. Alfidi resignation from SFVAC.
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel to report on new Commission Correspondence,
- D. Committee Reports:

Bylaws Committee Chair. Noetzel to Report on Bylaws Committee .

Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report.

#### 2. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. Process to Elect new Vice President for SFVAC.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. Plans for SFVAC meetings during the San Francisco Veterans War Memorial Building retrofit.

  Potential ACTION ITEM
- B. WELLNESS AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION Potential ACTION ITEM.
- 4. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Comm. Thompson (& others) to Report

b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE,

Report from Comm. Alexandra Crichlow on developments in this area.

Report from Liaison, Comm. RamIrez on most recent TOWN HALL MEETINGS of 4/23/12

c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Discussion only

#### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Discussion only

# 7. VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES Discussion only

8. NEW BUSINESS

Smoking at the VA.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities

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SAN FRANCISCO

10. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.

11. AJORNMENT

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of June 4, 2012

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by **President John Caldera** at 6:01pm, starting with the traditional **Pledge of Allegiance**.

#### Poll Cal

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Thompson, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong, (13)

Absent: Comm. G. Gibbs (excused, medical), Comm. D. Guy (excused travel), Comm. C. Gruwell (no notice, unexcused,)
Note: Commission strength now at 16 active members, 1 vacancy.

Attending Guests: Mrs. Hope Thompson,., Latonia Dixon, Roger Dong, JeanChas Morris, Leo Madrid, Jesse Martinez, Jerome Sapiro Jr. (Note: No City Attorney in attendance.)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motton to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. R. Wong 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. D. Wong. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

The Draft Minutes of the May 7, VAC meeting (by Sec'y S. Noetzel) were reviewed. Comm. Ramirez made MOTION to accept Minutes as written. (2<sup>nd</sup>- Comm. Wilkerson). Without further discussion or correction a Vote to accept May 7, VAC Meeting Minutes, as written, passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Each of the Meeting guests (as listed above) introduced themselves and expressed interest in the proceedings of the Commission

- S Guest Latonia Dixon spoke to announce a Veterans Art Guild exhibition at the Veterans Building in July. (Full details under Agenda item #9 Announcements, below.)
  S Guest Mrs. Hope Thompson (wife of Comm. M. Thompson) greeted the Commission and passed out for inspection by
- Commissioners, two documents purported to verify various awards and medals received by Comm. Thompson.
- > Guest JeanChas Morrls of the Veterans Media Center spoke to announce a July 26 evening event involving Veterans in conjunction with the ADA Act. Further details TBA.
- > Guest Roger Dong announced that the Veterans Resource Center has been re-named as the VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER. He also provided a short update on new resources and capabilities within the Center.
- > Guest Jerome SapIro spoke to announce that on Wednesday 6/6/12 there will be a public meeting of the Historical Preservation Commission regarding the preservation of the War Memorial Veterans Building.
- Suest Jerome Sapiro provided a review of significant background information with regard to the future of the War Memorial Veterans Building. An expanded discussion on the issue was moved to Agenda Item 6 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING. (below), including an invitation to attend and speak out (to preserve Veterans' rights and use of the building) at a Public Hearing by the Historic Preservation Commission Wednesday at 12:30pm in Room 400, City Hall.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Officers Reports

A President's Report, As President Caldera began his report on recent meetings with City Officials, Comm. Levin inquired as to why a 'President's Report' item on the April meeting Agenda, was never covered in subsequent Minutes. The specific item was in reference to the Agenda note that Pres. Caldera would report: "on a meeting with the Sarnalisco Office of Citizens Complaints. Pres. Caldera replied that the question was Out of Order (noting that the specific Complaint was in reference to an American Legion member (and attorney) who was currently the subject of disbarment proceedings), an action that he felt was appropriate to bring to the Office of Citizens Complaint. Over objection by the Chair, Comm. Levin distributed copies of email correspondence on this issue. Sec'y Moetzel affirmed that further discussion of this issue was not on the current Agenda and inappropriate at this time. He suggested that if Comm. Levin requested that it has been supported to the comment of the Agenda term in a future meeting. Comm. Levin requested that the Issue be Included as a Potential Action Item, In the Agenda for the August 2012 meeting of the SFVAC.

Returning to the President's Report, Comm. Caldera then distributed copies of a 12-page document consisting of copies of recent Emalls between members of the Commission and City officials regarding discussions on the VAC request for office Space within City Hall, and requests for meetings. He expressed frustration at what he felt was a "roadblock" to progress on veterans issues installed by the Mayor's office, but denied that there he had expressed any form of retailatory threat.

After some discussion, Sec'y Noetzel reviewed the fact that during the previous VAC meeting, the Commission had authorized President Caldera to "look into the possibility of gaining office space for the SFVAC within City Hall", He then distributed copies of his own 4-page record of recent email on the subject.

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The record shows that on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, our contact within the Office of the Mayor, Ms. Nicole Wheaton, wrote to President Calders stating:

"I had a chance to speak to building management about your office space request and it appears that there is no space in City Hall. As a matter of fact, they are actually in the process of moving some people out because there are actually too many needs and not enough space."

Sec'y Noetzel then read aloud the entire text of the objectionable 5/17/12 response to her email, written by President Calder under the Subject: "Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word." Some of the most damaging language includes:

- "....l am shocked beyond belief by your last email. As an American Veteran, time and time again, I hear "thank you for your service," roll off the tongues of politicians."
- "....This email, so far, is only between you and I, and I will keep it that way for one week."
- > "....Not finding space for the SFVAC within City Hall is so wrong on so many levels....."
- > "....This will be a media NIGHTMARE for Mayor Ed Lee if he is viewed as anti-Veteran or viewed as unfriendly to Veterans or unwilling to come to the aid of the City of San Francisco's own Veterans Affairs Commission."
- > ".... | need a different response from you about office space."
- "....if San Francisco Veterans are a priority to Mayor Lee, this will show it, or not. Sorry to take such a hard stance on this but right is right and wrong is wrong and not giving office space to the SFVAC is wrong.

Commissioner Noetzel suggested that the language of this email was inflammatory, threatening, and clearly went far beyon the Commission's authorization to 'look into the possibilities for City Hall office space. He suggested that President Caldera should be censured for the tone and content of the subject communication with the Office of the Mayor. Considerable discussion ensued with several Commissioners speaking up to object to the actions taken by the President.

Secretary Noetzel then offered a Motion regarding the subject; specifically:

"Motion to CENSURE President Caldera for overstepping his authority in the matter of seeking Office Space for the SFVAC in Ci. Hall. Based on a review of the Record of Correspondence, President Caldera has far surpassed the Commission mandate to inquire as to availability of subject Office Space, by escalating simple advocacy to aggressive and inappropriate language in Email correspondence with the Office of the Mayor. Including a threat of Public Accusation against the Mayor. By this official CENSURE he is advised by the Commission to cease and desist from any action that exceeds specific authority provided by the Commission, on this and all other matters." The Motion was Seconded by Comm. Levin.

In further discussion, Sec'y Noetzel read a key portion of Ms. Wheaton's email response to the offending email by President Caldera, wherein she states:

\*... Finally, your threat is unappreciated. The allocation of City Hall office space is not a litmus test of support for our Veterans Community. Again. as I said in my previous email, I am happy to help in your relocation, however, emails such as yours do not foster a sense of collaboration. May I kindly request that you please be considerate of that as we move forward."

After additional discussion, Comm. Towers suggested that in addition to the Censure, on behalf of the Commission, the Secretar should write a Letter of Apology, in an attempt to restore relations with the Office of the Mayor. Sec'y Noetzel demurred, stating that he was too close to the issue to write such a letter, and that in any event the text of such a letter should be approved by the entire Commission. After further discussion this suggestion was dropped and the Question was Called on the Motion.

By a raised-hand vote, the MOTION to CENSURE President Caldera overwhelmingly passed, with all Commissioners votin in favor, and one abstention. (Comm. Thompson).

During the post-vote discussion, several ideas on how to begin to install some controls to insure that in the future, Officers and members of the Commission serve to represent the consensus voice of the Commission as opposed to strong personal opinions and/or inappropriate language. Further discussion on this matter was tabled until it could be placed on the AGENDA of future VAC meeting as a potential Action Item.

B. Vice President's Report: Pres. Caldera noted that V.P. Alfidi has resigned from the VAC, and a procedure for election of a new V.P. would be initiated under Agenda Item #2.

C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel made a formal public introduction of the newest addition to the VAC, Commissioner ANN WEEBY, who was appointed by Mayor Lee on 5/16/12 to serve out the balance of the term of (recently resigned) Comm. Amber ROSE. Comm. Weeby is an Army National Guard Veteran who served an active duty tour in Iraq.

With her appointment to the VAC, she looks forward to working on veteran's employment, homelessness, and connecting & engaging our city's returning veterans. Commissioners welcomed her with a round of applause.

D. Committee Reports: Bylaws Committee Chair. Noetzel reported that the Bylaws Committee met for the 4th time just prior to the meeting and that additional progress on suggested Bylaws Changes were agreed upon, but more work must be done at future Committee meetings before full Report to the Commission can be achieved.

Pres. Caldera then distributed copies of a List of Committees and Committee Expectations, and noted that the Bylaws Committee is the only VAC Committee that has met (to date). He also polled Commissionners for a volunteer to Chair the Committee on Legislation after the resignation of former Chair, Comm. Alfidi. There were no volunteers.

Comm. Levin then spoke to announce his resignation as Co-chair of the EVENTS & Community Relations Committee, stating that Co-Chair Comm. Wilkerson will do a fine job as sole Chair. Comm. Towers spoke to mention that the Bylaws Committee was working on new bylaws provisions that would disband committees that were inactive for a designated period of time.

Sec'y Noetzel then pointed out that the 'Committees' document distributed includes the Committee Expectations of Pres.
Caldera, and that these Committee Expectations were never discussed or voted on by the entire Commission. He noted in particular that reference to the development of Public Hearings was a goal that must be fully discussed and authorized by the entire Commission before announcement.

Comm. Baldonado asked if he had been appointed to any Committee. Pres. Caldera then repeated his appointment of Comm. Baldonado to the Committee on Veterans Legislation.

## Agenda Item 2 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. ACTION ITEM. Process to Elect new Vice President for SFVAC.

President Caldera opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Vice President, to fill the position for the remainder of the 2012 Term of Office.

- Comm. Levin nominated Comm. Alexandra Crichlow. She accepted the nomination.
- Comm. R. Wong nominated Comm. Eddle RamIrez. He accepted the nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, President Caldera then closed the nominations process for this meeting with an announcement that nominations would again be opened prior to an ELECTION for Interim Vice President, during the September VAC meeting.

#### Agenda Item 3 - OLD BUSINESS

A Potential ACTION ITEM, Plans for SFVAC meetings during the San Francisco Veterans War Memorial Building retrofit. Pres. Caldera announced that he had recently heard from CIV Hall Space Allocation Manager (Mr. Rowand Lane), that the only viable time-slot that City Hall Hearing and Conference Room (416) is for the evenings of the Second Tuesday of each month. After some discussion on the matter, Commissioners were asked to speak up If any had problems or difficulties with a rather long-term switch of the VAC Monthly Meeting Schedule to the Second Tuesday of each month. Sec'y Noetzel spoke to announce that he did, as his Veterans for Peace group met on that schedule; nonetheless he would vote to accept the available time and space offer to insure that the VAC had permanent and viable meeting space going into the future. After some further discussion Comm. Levin made a MOTION that we Instruct the President to accept the offer to schedule future VAC Meetings in Room 416 of City Hall, during the available time-slot of 4:30pm to 9:00pm on the Second Tuesday of each month, as soon as it is available. (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Ramirez). A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously. President Caldera is thus authorized to move forward to make such arrangements.

#### B. Potential ACTION ITEM. WELLNESS AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION.

Pres. Caldera re-opened discussion by distributing copies of his latest DRAFT of his latest RESOLUTION (to advocate for establishment of an Obesity Awareness Day in San Francisco) for consideration. Comm. Towers suggested that this issue had already been sent to the VAC Committee on Legislation for further study, Pres. Caldera replied that the resignation of Comm. AlfIdI, that Committee had no Chair and therefore he brought it back for the entire Commission to consider. He mentioned that the Obama Administration is already planning announcement of a FITNESS and WELLNESS week in November, and suggested that we might advocate for designation of a San Francisco "week" to dovetail with the Federal initiative. After some discussion, Sec'y Noetzel raised a question with regard to the specific relevancy and benefit to the Veteran's Community (as opposed to the general population), for support of a WELLNESS AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION. Comm. Crichlow suggested that the role of the VAC in matters such as this might best be geared to support for initiatives taken by the city, that happen to benefit the Veterans Community. Comm. Ramirez recommended that we leave this initiative aside in favor of concentrating our Issues that were earlier defined as our Primary Goals. Comm. Towers suggested that as this item had already been assigned to Committee for further study, it was up to the Committee on Legislation to meet to do its job. Pres. Caldera then once again tabled this Issue for re-assignment to the Legislation Committee with a strong recommendation that they (and all other established Committees) actually meet to conduct their legitimate business.

#### Agenda Item 4 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

A. Veterans EMPLOYMENT. Comm. Thompson distributed copies of a new flyer for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Veterans Employment Committee/EDD Job Fair now scheduled for the 21<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2012 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Veterans Building. He added that there are now well over 20 area Employers signed on to participate, The event will include a Resume Writing Workshop and seminars to help veterans find jobs.

8. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE, Comm. Alexandra Crichlow spoke to remind Commissioners that many veterans suffer from "hidden disabilities" such as depression and social anxieties. She suggested that there might be a role for the Commission to find a way to address this problem. Comm. Dacumos also spoke out on this issue, and suggested that the Veterans Community would be well advised to collaborate with the Performing Arts community to find ways to heighten awareness of the debilitating injuries anising from PTSD and TBI, Comm. Notezle suggested that create hat the Arts Community is a legitimate role for the Events and Community Relations Committee – but once again, they would have to become an active, working Committee to make any progress in this area. Comm. Levin suggested that the development of an updated "Master Reference List" of agencies that might be of help to veterans in need of specific Social Services might also be a valid Commission Project. Comm. Ramirez reported that after a year of contacts with service providers at his monthly TOWN HALL MEETINGS, he now has a "stack" of cards and pamphlets from a wide variety of agencies, companies and individuals that might well be incorporated into such a publication. Comm. Noetzel mentioned that the Bylaws Committee is currently developing suggestions to establish a Social Media Llaison position within the Commission, and that the Services Directory idea might well be within the job description of the new position.

### B. HOMELESS Veterans.

- > Pres. Caldera distributed copies of a 1-page article from the June American Legion Magazine titled: "Report: Homeless female yets at rlsk". The article highlights the little-known severity of this problem.
- > Comm. Towers reported on the Mayor's new "Homes for Heroes" program, including a new "100-day Initiative" to find apartment owners who are willing to accept HUD Housing vouchers as rent payment for homeless veterans.

#### Agenda item 5: Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Discussion only (Covered under least portion of Agenda item 4B, above)

## Agenda Item 6 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

Guest Jerry Sapiro, an attorney/advocate for Veterans Rights/usage of the Veterans building spoke to urge all in attendance to attend and participate in the June 6 Historic Preservation Commission Hearing, at 1:30pm in City Hall Room 400. Veterans and the public will have opportunity to voice their disagreement with the current Board of Trust plans for Post-renovation Space Allocation within the building. Current plans to expand non-veteran space allocation include (but are not limited to):

- Reduction of Amer, Legion District 8 HQ space.
- Construction of a new Office of the City Arts Commission on north side of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. floor.
- Allocation of new building space for an Opera Costume Shop & Storage Facilities.

Mr. Sapiro pointed out that at the same time the Board of Trust was increasing allocation of Arts Community space within the building, they were denying space allocation for legitimate use by Veterans and Patriotic organizations as required by Charter. Comm. Noetzel pointed out that despite the fact that the Veterans Community had (for many years) under-utilized the building, the planned Reduction of Space for veterans use comes exactly at a time when MORE space and resources should be made available if we are going to successfully contend with a new wave of veterans returning from active duty at this time. Mr. Sapiro ended his presentation with another plea for all in attendance to participate in the 6/6/ hearing.

Agenda item 7 - VETERANS ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES (Covered under Agenda Item 9, below).

#### Agenda Item 8 - NEW BUSINESS

Smoking at the VA. Pres. Caldera introduced the idea of a Grounds Clean-up Day to "police" trash and cigarette buts at the Ft. Miley VA facility. Further discussion postponed in interest of time.

#### Agenda Item 9 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > Guest Latonia Dixon announced that on Tues, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2012 there will be a VETERANS ART FAIR on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of
- the Veterans building, from 3pm to 8pm. The event is sponsored by AmVets Post 34 & American Legion Post 315.

  > Comm. Thompson announced that on Sat. the 21 st of July there will be a VETERANS BARBEQUE EVENT at the VA Facility.
- at Ft. Miles. Veterans and families all welcomed to attend.

  > Comm. R. Wong announced that on Sun. the 25th of July, the VFW 91st Div/Chinatown Post 4618. will celebrate its 100th
- > Comm. R. Wong announced that on Sun. the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, the VFW 91<sup>th</sup> Dlv/Chinatown Post 4618, will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup>
  Anniversary with a dinner banquet at the 4-seasons Restaurant. Tickets are \$35. And all are invited.

Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

10. AJORNMENT, Meeting Adjourned at 8:39pm

Minutes of the 6/4/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (after minor corrections) by majority vote of the VAC at the General Meeting of 8/6/12

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco
War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, August 6, 2012 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

JUL 2 5 2012 SAN FRANCISCO

President John Caldera, Presiding

ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item
REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

a. Review of Sec'y Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 4 June, 2012 (Action item)
Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by quests).

#### 1. Election of Vice President: Action Item.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Caldera to administer public election of Vice President to serve for remainder of 2012 term.

Procedure to include Last Call for additional nominations, including self-nomination, followed by a public 'paper ballot' election.

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Caldera
- B. Vice President's Report: Newly elected V.P. to address Commission
- C. Secretary's Report:
  - > Secretary Noetzel to report on efforts to contact BOS Rules Committee Chair regarding open positions on Commission. Potential Action Item.
  - Secretary Noetzel to report on Semi-Annual Attendance Report recently submitted to Office of the Mayor. Discussion and Potential Action and Censure regarding repeated un-excused absence.

### 3. Committee Reports:

- > Bylaws Committee Chair. Noetzel to Report on Bylaws Committee progress.
- > Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report (If any).
- Discussions on the viability of Committees as appointed during this term with Potential Action to disband inactive Committees.

#### 4. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. Open discussion on Commission Goals/Plans at half-way point of 2012 term.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. Discussion of Presidents filing of Complaint regarding American Legion member (and attorney) currently the subject of disbarment proceedings, and associated Email. Potential Action Item.
- B. Confirmation of schedule & details of moving VAC meetings to City Hall.
- C. Discussion on need for new Commission Mailing address after shut-down of Veterans Building. Potential ACTION ITEM.

#### 6. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

- a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.
- Floor opened for Reports/updates by Commissioners.
- b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.
- Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.
- c. HOMELESS Veterans.
- Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

- Discussion only
- 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
  - Discussion only
- 7. VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES
- Discussion only
- 8. NEW BUSINESS
- 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities
- 10. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.
- 11. AJORNMENT



## August 6, 2012

Veterans' Affairs Commission - August 6, 2012

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of August 6, 2012

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Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President John Caldera at 6:00pm, starting with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Call to Order

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Crichtow, Gibbs, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong. (13)

Absent: Comm. D. Dacumos (excused, medical), Comm. C. Gruwell (no notice, unexcused,)

Note: Commission strength now at 15 active members, 2 vacancies.

Attending Guests: Mr. Greg Corrales, Mr. JeanChas Morris, Mr. Lee Burnette (Note: No City Attorney in attendance.)

Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Levin, 2nd, Comm. R. Wong. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

President Calders opened discussion on the Dark Minutes of the previous meeting (i.e. 64/12), as written by Secy S. Noetzel. Pres. Calders stated that he had discussed the proceedings of the meeting with ne disco of the City, Antherine and that it was belief that actions involving the CENSURIEE of the President were not norder. He necessated that approval of the Minutes therefore he TABLED, until such time as a legal opinion on this matter could be made. Comm. Noetzel objected, stating that the MINUTES were a flockall record of what actually transpired at the June Meeting, and as such, must reflect all that transpired at that meeting. Comm. Levin also added that Hestoy cannot be changed, and made a MOTTON to approve the Minutes, as written (Seconded by Comm. Ramirez.) in discussion Comm. R. Wong requested at minor correction (for the record) regarding the hosting organization of a 772912 d niner event. That request was added into the Motion to Approve. The question was called and a subsequent vote to Approve the Minutes of the 64/12 meeting of the WC (as concretely was APPROVED.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Each of the Meeting guests (as listed above) introduced themselves and expressed interest in the proceedings of the Commission. Guest Greg Corrales stated that his specific interest involved an Email exchange with the President, and looked forward to a discussion in that regard.

Agenda item 1 - Election of Vice President

#### ACTION ITEM. Process to Elect new Vice President for SFVAC.

President Caldern opened this Agenda Item with an announcement that Comm. Crichlow had WITHDRAWN her nomination for the office of Vice President, leaving the Commission with only one nominated candidate (i.e. Comm. Ramirez). He need to pere detail supportunity for Nominations for the Office of Vice President. Heaving none he closed Nominations and asked the Secretary to administer the election. Secy Notezet distributed to Individualized ballots, which were marked by each Commissioner present at the meeting. He tabulated results and announced that Commissioner Eduardo Ramirez had been elected unanimously as the new Commission Vice oresident for the balance of the 2012 Term.

#### Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

A\_Psaights\_ERpact; President Caldera opened his report by stalling that the Commission is dysfunctional and "currently in Civil War". He stated that he has field complaints with both the Ethics Commission and the Human Rights commission members. He added that he has also discussed his grievances against specific Commission Members with Ms. Riccle Wheelen of the Mayors of Eth. Commissions were unformly sturmed, otherded and outraged by these revetations and spoke out in turn with profuse objection to his activities, asking exactly what his complaints were. At his point Pres. Caldera distributed a photocopy (Black A while) of several protos that he claims portrayed Corm. Levin being "disrespectat" to women. Again, the Commission unformly putraged. Corm. Guy

(the subsect of one of the photos) asked President Caldera why he had not contacted the over the past 2 months to ask her personally if she had any objection to the behavior of any Commissioners. She stated that the photo in question depicted nothing whatsoever, and that she had no complaint whatsoever, moreover, to the contrary, she appreciated the support that all VAC Commissioners had extended to her. She stated that she was certainly no party to any complaint against Commissioner Levin, who was depicted in conversation with their at an event on December of 2011. President Caldera then appropriate to Comm. Guy, however he continued to claim that his complaints to the various agences had valdingly, and that we would be hearing from and agencies regarding his complaints countries.

Comm. Dara Wong asked that the minutes reflect the fact that she personally observed a second incident that President Caldera claims to depict Comm. Levin "being disrespectful" to the wife of former Commissioner Thompson during a Memorial Day event. She stated that if anything, the reverse was the case and that Comm. Levin was on the receiving end of the disrespect, and that the sill bindoes submitted as violators by President Caldera rows enthing whatsoews.

Agenda Item #2A, President's Report, (continued)

Comm. Notizel added that the personal Email he sent to colleagues about his reaction to the cold reception extended to a group of veterans speaking in Public Comment before the board of trust, in no way qualified as a "Loose Cannon" statement and that he was proud of his statements in that private Email. He suggested moving on from those uply personal charges by the President, leave the personal vindictive behind, and get back to issues of relevance to Veterans.

B. Vice President's Report: Newly-Elected V.P. Ramirez simply stated: "Obviously, we have much work to do.

Let's get to it".

C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel began with a report on recent Correspondence. He cited an Email that he had received (as a 'Copy to' recipient) from Nicola Wheaton of the Mayor's Office wherein she asks President Calders to provide certain documentation reparding his filing of a complaint gainst an American Lection member (and storney). Sec'y Noetzel saked if Pres. Calders and grovided the requised information. President Calders replied that he had done so.

- > Sec'y Noetzel discussed an Email exchange that he had with the office of Supervisor Jane Kim, (Chair of the BoS Rules Committee). Essence of the exchange was to inquire when the Rules Committee might schedule a hearing to interview candidates for the four currently opened (BoS appointed) seats on the Commission, particularly in the we have already been advised of at least five (5) qualified veterans who have made application for appointment. In answer, we are advised that the Rules Committee will schedule such a hearing: "...as soon as we return from summer recess, in September".
- Secty Noetzel then reported on his recent submittal of a Mid-year Attendance Report as requested by the Officer of the Mayor. In making his report he noted that Comm. Chris GRUWELL had missed the last three consecutive Meetings of the VAC, and 5 of the 6 meetings of the VAC in 2912 (not counting his un-excussed absence tonight, his 4th consecutive absence). Secry Noetzel then distributed copies of a Draft Resolution that he had authored in this matter. The Resolution characterized this absence record as unacceptable called for probationary status for Comm. Gravell. It further mandated that the next Circumel absence would rigger an Agenda Action inter for the following VAC meeting, to consider a MOTION to recommend (to the Mayor), the Dismissal of Commissioner Gruwell for lack of minimal participation in the proceedings of the Commission. As this matter was on the current Agenda as a Potential Action feem Comm. Noetzel made a Motion to adopt this Resolution and Plan of action. In Seconding the Motion, Comm. Levin stated that it was in accordance with Current Commission Bylaws in the area of Attendance Reporting. Press. Calders astated that in recent meetings staff of the Office of the Mayor, he was given to understand that Commissioner Gruwell was considering resigning from the officer of the Commission of Commission. Press. Calders as all that he had already communicated with Comm. Gruwell to advise him of the concerns of the Commission. Press. Calders as all that he had already communicated with Comm. Forwell and asked him to increase participation within the Commission, but that this should have no bearing on the current Motion. Comm. Wilkerson asked if it might be appropriate to contact Comm. Gruwell to advise him of the concerns of the Commission. Press. Calders as all that he had already communicated with Comm. Gruwell and asked him to increase participation within the Commission, but had received no response. The Question was called and a vote taken. The Motion to adopt the Resolution of Censure passed

Agenda item 3 – Committee Reports President Caldera called for Committee Reports, noting that once again that to his knowledge there have been no Committee Meetings of any formed Committees, save the Bylaws Committee.

Bylaws Committee Chair. Notezel then reported on the progress of the Bylaws Committee, stating that in its most recent meeting (earlier in the evening), the Committee Individual to submit its Committee Endorsed Document of Suggested Bylaws Changes to the full Commission for its review and eventual consideration for Ratfication. He then distributed to each Commissioner, envelopes containing all required documents for their review of current Bylaws, and the proposed changes, deletions and additions as developed by the Bylaws. Committee in 5 meetings over the past 6 months. He asked all Commissioners to review these documents over the next two months and be prepared to discuss the potential for doption and Ratfication in the Nowmber VAC meeting.

Comm. Guy announced that she would like to schedule a meeting of the WOMENS CAUCUS, an appointed Committee of the VAC. Sec'y Noetzel announced that he will help her with advice on Public Notification procedures/dealls, to schedule up an initial committee meeting

At this point, President Caldera asked Sec'y Noetzel if he wished to move forward with the Agenda Item:

> Discussions on the viability of Committees as appointed during this term with Potential Action to disband inactive

#### Committees

Sec'y Noetzel suggest that this item be tabled for a future meeting as provisions for the disbanding of inoperative Committees are addressed in the proposed Revised Bylaws. Pres. Caldera tabled the item.

Comm. Levin asked if the Proposed Bylaws included rules for the establishment of Committees, pointing out that Pres. Caldera had recently established, without consultation with the Commission, a new Committee for Board of Trust Liaison. Sec'y Noezel suggested that the referenced Committee formation and appointments are invalid, but as the issue is not on the current Agenda, it must be taken up at a later date. (End of Item 3, Committee Reports).

#### Agenda item 4 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. Open discussion on Commission Goals/Plans at half-way point of 2012 term.

Press. Caldera opened the floor for discussion on this matter. Sec'y Neetzel suggested that the President should write a letter to the Nayor and Board of Supenvisors. The purpose of the letter would be a Review of the Advice Letters that this Commission has written to them over the first half of this year, and ask them for a response on each Comm. Ramirez asked if the Secretary could provide a aummany of those issues for future Action, and Sec'y Neetzel said that he will provide same to Comm. Weeby who will serve as Acting Secretary in his absence as he will be on extended out-of-town travel soon, and will miss the VAC meetings of September and October. Comm. Baddonado mentioned that there is an ursprey to this Review Effort as the current session of the US Congress in nearing its end, and our Advice Letters include a request for the City Administration he advocate for further progress on the Fairness to Flipino Velezarras Bill. Press. Caldera suggested that Comm. Baddonado might add his own letter (on that issue), in addition to the "Review Letter" sent by the President. Discussion on this matter ended with agreement that the President will write a letter to the City Administration, and any advice the state of 2014. On the Ministration, and any advice the state of 2014.

#### Agenda item 5 - OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Discussion of Presidents filing of Complaint regarding American Legion member (and attorney) currently the

subject of disbarment proceedings, and associated Email. Potential Action tem. Comm. Levin opered this discussion by distribution cycles of the April W2 meeting Agenda to indicate that this issue was initially brought up by President Caldera under Presidents Report under subtitie. A <u>President's Report</u> President Caldera to report on meetings with various city difficults, and a Report on meeting with the San Francisco Office of Citizens Complaints. He then re-distributed copies of a document originally distributed by President Caldera on the issue. The document includes a record of an email string between Mr. Caldera and Mr. Greg Corrates, on the subject of the legal difficulties of American Legion member Laibus Grim. Comm. Levin again asked Pres. Caldera why he went to the Office of Citizens Complaints? (and) Who did he file a complaint against? (and) and for what reason?

Pres. Calder a responded that this issue is inappropriate as an SFWC Agenda item and that it was only on the Agenda at the request of Comm. Levin. Comm. Towers said he agreed with that assessment, but that since Pres. Caldera thad placed it on the April Agenda to begin with, the follow-up questions are legitimate. Pres. Caldera then answered Comm. Levin's question by stating that he had filed a complaint against (attorney) LaRue Grim. When asked if this was done in his capacity as President of the SFVAC, he answered "No.. the complaint is signed by me as Commander of an American Legion Post."

Comm. Towers then asked if that was the case, why did he then place it on the April VAC meeting Agenda for discussion? Pres. Caldera replied that he felt it was important to inform Commissioners of the SFVAC about the impending Dis-barrment of attorney and Legion Member LaRue Grim.

Comm. Levin then asked if (guest) Mr. Greg Corrales could be heard on this issue, as he had something important to contribute. He introduced Mr. Corrales as a Vice Commander of AL. District 8, a (Marine) Veteran of the Vietnam conflict and a long time member of the San Francisco Police Department, serving last as a Captain. Commissioner Levin then asked Captain Corrales if he knew who Mr. Caldera had filed a complaint against with the SF Office of Citizens Complaints. Capt. Corrales stated: "He filed a complaint against MR". Comm. Levin pointed out the obvious discrepancy and asked Capt. Corrales to further explain.

Capt. Corraise again referred to the E-mail string between himself and Pies. Caldera, which clearly indicates that despite the inflammatory tone of Mr. Caldera's correspondence, he and continually answered "Let us agree to disagree on the subject of LaRue Grint". He than stated that soon thereafter he (Mr. Corrales) received official notification from the Office of Citizens Correlaints, that a complaint had been filed against HM (by Mr. Caldera's for "E-mail Bullying". He stated that he record of the E-mail string speaks for listsf, and it indicates that he had been conciliatory throughout, and that Mr. Caldera was all too obviously the bully in the exchange. He stated that the matter was then transferred to Poice Department Internal Affairs, and that upon utherer investigation they concluded that there was no incorrecronautor to the part of Calcalin Correct.

All this point Sec'y Notetal asked the Commission to once again read the Ernal strip between President Caldera and Capt. Corrallers, a document originally distributed by Pres. Caldera. He stated that the tone displayed by President Caldera was shameful throughout, particularly his last statement where he suggests that Capt. Corrales should "spend more firms at the gym working up a sweat and less time pushing your opinions around the American Legion and the SPFD would be better served."

A. Discussion of Presidents filing of Complaint regarding American Legion member (and attorney) currently the

subject of disbarment proceedings, and associated Email. Potential Action Item.

Comm. Levin then made a MOTION that President Caldera be ordered to write a letter to all parties to the entire issue, to clarify that his statements and actions regarding Mr. Grim

and Mr. Corrales were completely his own as an individual, and in no way reflected the opinions or position of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission." (Second by Corm. Noebzel) Hearing no further discussion on the issue, Pres. Caldera called the question. A subsequent vote resulted in a near unanimous mandate for President Caldera to write the letter as ordered. He stated that despite his abstention vote he will comply with the will of the Cormission and write the letter.

#### B. Confirmation of schedule & details of moving VAC meetings to City Hall.

This Agenda item was covered in earlier discussion however President Caldera confirmed that we will continue "First-Monday-of-the-month meeting schedule in the Veterans Bulding through the balance of 2012. Our January 2013 VAC meeting will mark the start of our new "Second Tuesday" schedule as it will be held in Room 416 of City Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 8° of January, 2013.

C. Discussion on need for new Commission Mailing address after shut-down of Veterans Building. Potential ACTION ITEM. President Caldera announced that logistics negotiations with respect to our re-location in 2013 continued with Ms. Nicole Wheaton of the Mayor's Office, and that the establishment of an official Mailing Address for the VAC (starting in 2013) was part of that discussion and he was hopeful that a resolution would be reached well before the end of this year. (No Action required at this time.)

### Agenda Item 6 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

A. Veterans EMPLOYMENT. Comm. Wilkerson stated that he would be willing to take on the role of Liaison in this area, but that he had nothing special to report at this time. He will have details on the 6/21/12 EDD Job Fair at a future meeting.

8. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE. Comm. Alexandra Crichlow announced that she had recently enjoyed the camaraderic and company of fellow Commissioners Calderra and Nostaci in Rowing Machine Work-out sessions at the Club One fitness center in the Embaradero. She also announced that she was working on establishment of a Women's Veteran group to be established under the Wholevet program that the Commission had earlier endoors. Comm. Crichlow also reported on an unfortunate incident at an AMVETS event that has resulted in some cutaliment of the Homeless Vet Feeding Program run by AMVETS on Sundays.

#### B. HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Gibbs reported on progress in planning for the East Bay Veterans Stand-Down, scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> of September, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, in Pleasanton, CA. Comm. Gibbs mentioned that a new element in this year's event was the transport of incarcerated veterans to participate and receive much-needed direct services. He stated that event plannens were expecting up to 500 veterans to attend and receive services, over the 4-day event. including younger-vets from recent conflicts. This is a major undersking aimed at direct assistance to area vets. Volunteers are needed and welcome. See Event Website at the John-was easthystand-own off for details on attending, volunteering, & more.

Agenda item 7: Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

No meeting discussion in this area

Agenda item 8 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

No meeting discussion in this area.

#### Agenda item 9 - VETERANS ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Comm. Towers opened a discussion in this area by cautoring the Commission that in order to return to focus on issues of relevance to the interests and needs of the veterans of San Francisco the Commission Leadership must be more prudent in insuring that meetings do not drift into areas that may be interesting, but are not relevant in short, he stressed that it is not needed, or height, to spend meeting sime to explore every detail that happened at every organization, in the recent or distant past. See'y Noetzel offered agreement, stating that he was only interested in continued service with the Commission in 2013 if we can put the personal investive and minufal aside and get back to work on issues relevant to Melerans.

Comm. Raminez then reported on the latest TOWN HALL meetings that he continues to host on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. He said that attendance and interest continue to grow steadily as the word gets out to inform Veterans and Service providers that this is a comfortable hassie-free "one-stop-shop" to learn about available services to veterans.

Comm. Ramirez also announced that he is also working on development of TWO new events that he hopes to bring to the Veterans building. The first is a S.F. VETERANS FILM FESTIVAL, which will include screenings of at least four films, made for and about Veterans and Veterans issues.

The second event announced by Comm. Ramnez, was the planning for a VETERANS UNINERSITY SUMMITT, which will involve bringing together leadership elements of Bay Area Colleges, and Universities with student Veterans, and Veterans Administration area directors with expertise on the New G. Bit Caudational Benefice, While planning is still in development. Comm. Ramirez annotes to bring these events to the Veterans Boulding before the retrofit closure. Finally, one. Ramirez annoted that these events will be sponsored by a NEW American Legion Post (the Caesar Chavez Post) that he is currently organizing, and he will be seeking SFVAC endorsement for these events, once dates are selected.

President Caldera then re-capped two VETERANS ART FAIR events that were recently sponsored by AL Post 315. The events were well attended and featured artworks in several media—all done by bay area veterants. He pointed out that such events serve as stering examples of how the Wart Memoral Veterans Building continues to live up to its purpose in direct service to the Sain Francisco veterants community. He tainaked those were bartered and supported the events.

#### Agenda item 10 - NEW BUSINESS

No meeting discussion in this area.

#### Agenda item 11 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > Comm. Weeby announced that in Sacramento, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October there will be a WOMENS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, hosted by CALVET WOMEN VETERANS. Full details on the Conference are available at the CA Dept. of Veterans Affairs website, at: http://www.calvet.ca.gov/womenninority/Conference.asax
- > Comm. Towers encouraged all to review the various veterans-related events currently featured on the Swords to Plowshares website, at http://www.swords-to-plowshares.org/news-and-events/
- 12. Honors Report and Moment of Silence; in memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent sucides within the veterans and armed services community, and (as cited by Comm. Levin) the innocent victims killed and wounded in recent domestic attacks as they enjoyed the freedoms of our culture.

13. AJORNMENT. Meeting Adjourned at 8:09pm

Minutes of the 8/6/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the VAC Meeting of September 10, 2012.



## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco
War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104
Monday, September 10, 2012 6:00 PM

## MEETING AGENDA

President John Caldera, Presiding

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item

REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

Review of DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 6 August, 2012 Action item
 Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

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### 1. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report: President Caldera
- B. Vice President's Report: V.P. Ramirez to report on his efforts on behalf of Commission.
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel is excused.
- D. Committee Reports:

## 2. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. Plans for the San Francisco Veteran's Day Parade. Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

### 3. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

#### A. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

#### B. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief Report from Liaison, Comm. Ramirez on most recent TOWN HALL MEETINGS.
Brief Reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

### C. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief Reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

- 4. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.
- 5. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
- 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of Veteran related events/activities
- 7. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, as well as the passing of homeless Veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and Armed Services community.

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5th Floor) Government Informatic in Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

## DISABILITY ACCESS

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## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of September 10th, 2012

Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President John Caldera at 6:00pm, starting with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

In attendance for the meeting: Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Crichlow, Gibbs, Guy, Levin, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson,

Absent: Commissioners D. Dacumos, C. Gruwell, S. Noetzel (excused-travel), D.Wong (excused-travel),

R.Wong (excused- travel).

Attending guests: John Alex Lowell, Nelson Lurn, Leo Madrid, Chris Less, Michael Blackford, Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm Levin, 2nd, Comm Towers. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting

Motion to accept minutes, of previous meeting as written, made by Comm Wilkerson, 2nd Comm Levin. Without further discussion, meeting minutes passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Each of the meetings guests (as listed above) introduced themselves and expressed interest in the proceeding of the commission.

Agenda Item 1 Officers Reports:

A. <u>President's Report</u>: President Caldera formally resigns as VAC Commission President but will remain on the commission. Allows Vice President E. Ramirez to step in to chair commission. Five minute adjournment called. Comm. Caldera excused himself from rest of meeting.

B. <u>Vice President's Report</u>: V.P. Ramirez takes over meeting as acting President and confirms process with Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass. V.P. Ramirez met with Nicole Wheaton in anticipation of first meeting as V.P. She suggested two areas for the commission to focus on to benefit veterans of the city: 1) Hiring practices of the city and county of San Francisco pertaining to veterans. 2) Issue of a Veterans court in San Francisco. Commission could take action to look into if this is viable in San Francisco. Would like to look into inviting key players duries the commission on these two items. Also, started the first Cesear E. Chavez post of the American Legion. First Friday of every month at the War Memorial Building, hoping to generate interest in the building on Friday nights and is looking for suggestions.

C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel is absent. Comm. Weeby is acting Secretary and taking notes.

D. Committee Reports:

<u>Women's Committee Report:</u> Comm Guy shared an update about the women's collaborative meeting in San Jose with Dep. Sec. Wathen. Comm Weeby shared details about the CalVet Women's Leadership conference and need for award nominations.

Agenda Item 2 Commission Goals and Plans:

A. Veterans Day Parade: Comm Levin shared flyers and Information about this year's parade on Sunday November 11th, 2012. If you have questions contact Comm Levin or Javier Tenorio. Interested groups need to fill out an application. ATTACHED. "Commission website needs to be updated with the parade letter and form.

Agenda Item 3 Current Veterans projects and reports on ongoing issues:

A. Veterans Employment

Comm Wilkerson reported that the committee has not had a meeting and he will be acting as head of the committee.

B. Veterans Health and Welfare

Comm Crichlow reported that Swords to Plowshares will have a dinner on November 7th. Also, the new veterans housing on Olis St will open on November 12th. For more information contact Swords to Plowshares Communication Director Colleen Coriliss. Comm Towers shared that there are 79 rooms, all for veterans and the VA will be taking care of who goes in via HUD-VASH. The Swords to Plowshares is updated with Veterans Day information

Comm Ramirez reported on the Town Hall collaboratives. He has a student working under work study program money and is helping to organize information from the Town Hall. The 5-7pm veterans' town hall will not be

happening on Sep 26th due to observance of Yom Kippur. Both the morning session and How To Get a Federal Job Workshop will occur during their regular times this month.

C. Homeless Veterans

Comm Globs shared that the East Bay Stand Down is happening Sep 13-16. There are 4-5 county-specific courts at the Stand Down to help with toketing, licenses, and legal issues. Comm Ramirez shared that he has information about Stand Downs happening in other counties, reach out to him if you want information.

### Agenda Item 4 Veterans related legislation

Nothing to report

Agenda Item 5 War Memorial Veterans Building

Guest Neison Lum, Chair of War Memorial Commission (WMC), shared that there will be a special meeting on Sep 17th. Norminations for the commission will be accepted on that day, he urged American Legion members to show up to ensure a quorum. The Veterans Building has a continuing struggle between the commission and trustees. Interpretation of rights and space is being evaluated and may end in litigation. The WMC opposes the retrofitting of the interior of the building and they are appealing the trustees decision. There is a meeting at City Hall on September 19th. If a San Francisco veteran wants to use the building he cautions that you get a sponsorship from the American Legion since the San Francisco Post is the only active veterans' organization left on the trust. July 1st, 2013 is when construction begins on the War Memorial Buildina. Most likely all organization will be moved out by April 30th 2013.

Acting President Ramirez will confirm VAC meeting time and location during construction during October's meeting.

#### Agenda Item 6 Announcements

- Guest Leo Madind shared that during July's job fair there were lots of employer cancellations resulting in empty desks and employers were not hining veterans. He only knows of one veteran that actually got a job that day. Comm Crichlow shared that at the Community Covenant veterans did get jobs. Guest Nelson Lum shared that in the future in order for employers to get tables at job fairs in the War Memorial building they should be required to hire at least one person. Comm Guy shared that there is rarely any follow-up after job fairs and it discourages people. Comm Ramirez suggested that perhaps this could be a requirement for next year's Community Covenant.
- John Alex Lowell shared training from the Evangelical Lutheran Church on counseling tools for pastors or people in service before or after deployment. This information is available from the Evangelical Lutheran Church for free. Acting President Ramirez mentioned this was right on target with what was happening at the VA.
- Acting President Ramirez brought copies of <u>Talk</u>, <u>Listen</u>, <u>Connect</u> for everyone. This bilingual (English and Spanish) multimedia outreach program is designed to support military families with children between the ages of two and five who are experiencing deployment, multiple deployments, or a parent's return home changed due to a combat-related injury.
- Comm Levin shared that if anyone is interested in getting more information about the plight of the building
  the Trustees minutes for the last 10 years are available on the city's website. Agenda for upcoming meetings
  are also available.
- Guest Christopher Lee represents United Students for Veterans Health. He came to the VAC looking for recognition for his all-student organization that is using the VA volunteer training system to get students ready to volunteer at the hospital. They are recruiting volunteers and have 8-10 founding student board members that have been very successful. The organization is hosting an annual conference and speaker symposium to focus on Veterans outreach. Acting President Ramirez said he would reach out to Christopher to share information and resources.
- Comm Wilkerson shared that Raiph Gibson died a week ago and requested the VAC adjourn in his honor.
   Comm Crichlow stated that someone should let the Board of Supervisors know so they can honor his years of service on the Commission.

Agenda Item 7 Honors Report and Moment of Silence

In memory of American Armed Service members who have make the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of hornless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community, and to our fellow commissioners and local veterans as well.

Agenda Item 8 Adjournment Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting is Oct 1st.

GOVERNMENT OCUMENTS DEPT

Minutes of the 9/10/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Acting Secretary Ann Weeby and APPROVED (as submitted) at the VAC Meeting of October 1, 2012.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco
War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

## Monday, October 1, 2012 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA President Eduardo Ramirez, Presiding

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

SEP 28 2012

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

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a. Review of DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 10 September, 2012 (Action item)

MOTION to approve moving Vice President Eduardo Ramirez to the position of President of the Veterans Affairs Commission for the rest of 2012. And leaving the position of Vice President vacant until the next election in

Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

A. Briefing from the VA Veteran Justices Outreach Coordinator

#### 1. Officers REPORTS:

A. <u>President's Report;</u> President Ramirez
B. Vice President's Report: (No VP at this time)

C. Secretary's Report: In the absence of Secretary Noetzel Commissioner Ann Weeby to report in the capacity of Acting Secretary.

## 2. Committee Reports:

> Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report (if any).

## 3. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. Open discussion on Commission Goals/Plans for the balance of 2012

B. What is the hiring policy for veterans in the City and County of San Francisco? Would like to see veterans get the same preference as the federal government where Veteran who meet the min requirements get hired non-competitively.

C. Propose to establish a Veterans Court in the City and County of San Francisco.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS.

### 5. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Floor opened for Reports/updates by Commissioners.

b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

## 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Discussion only

## 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Discussion on progress regarding establishment of new Commission Mailing address after shut-down of Veterans Building.

## 8. VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES

Discussion only

#### 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities

11. <u>Honors Report and Moment of Silence</u>; In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.

## 12. AJORNMENT

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Agenda Item 3 Current Veterans projects and reports on ongoing issues:

- A. Veterans Employment
  - > Comm. Guy reported that she got a job with Oakland's Vet Center.
- > Pres Ramírez conducted his How To Get a Federal Job workshop for 40 people, including 15 veterans at SFCC. He has an upcoming workshop at the Veterans Success Center with IAVA on 10/4/12.

B. Veterans Health and Welfare No comments

C. Homeless Veterans No comments

### Agenda Item 4 Veterans related legislation

Comm Towers reported on the Swords to Plowshare blog and shared handouts on veterans' legislation.

- Comm Towers was asked by Pres Ramanz to make additions to our website to include recent state legislation.

-Comm Baldonado & Towers are going to follow up on the status our bill endorsing letter to the Board of Supervisors and let the commission know the status.

## Agenda Item 5 War Memorial Veterans Building

Guest Leo Madrid shared that there is a meeting October 2<sup>nd</sup> discussing War Memorial Building updates. He also shared that membership, including veterans and their family members, is critical to the success of the American Legion.

#### Agenda Item 6 Announcements

- Comm. Towers shared that Swords to Plowshares has pushed back the opening of the Otis St. facility has
  Homeless Veterans will be moved into the facility in November.
- Schedule to move SFVAC meetings to City Hall in January. Meetings will be in ROOM 416 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6pm. In November and December the room is available for committee meetings during our regular time on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 8 Dec 11th. Comm. Levin shared that we need to decide how to use the space since it is a very large area for our commission. We may need to request tables to be
- set up. Comm Towers will visit and take photos and share with the commission.

  Since there is lots of information about veteran's events and issues in the city Comm Guy is going to make
- an RSS feed and share it with Pres Ramirez later this week.

  Comm. Caldera shared that local company Zynga has a partnership going with IAVA to donate money via this popular online game Mafia Wars.
- The physical address on our website is wrong.
- Pres Ramirez shared that his new Cesar E. Chavez post is looking for members.
- Veterans Day Parade: Comm. Levin shared that funding for the Veterans Day parade is from the Grants
  for the Arts which funds lots of local organizations and events, and this year's event is currently in the
  bottom 20% in grant awards amounts. He runs the event and stated that there is currently not enough
  money invested in Veterans Day events and would like to see the parade once again get greater funding.
  Comm. Levin also has event posters and handouts.
- Guest announced a Vet 2 Vet initiative that is interested in expanding to San Francisco and creating jobs and shared copies of the information
- Sat. Oct 13<sup>th</sup> Post 315 is hosting a Take Back the Night event at the War memorial Building. Comm.
   Caldera will e-mail the information to all commissioners.
- P.E.A.C.E. Museum is now installed in the War Memorial Building, Viewing is by appointment.
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> First Annual Veterans Film Festival 12-6pm. Sponsored by the Cesar E. Chavez post.
- Last month Town Hall meeting collaborated with Disabled American Veterans and had over 50 organizations attend in September.

#### Agenda Item 7 Honors Report and Moment of Silence

In memory of American Armed Service members who have make the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community, and to our fellow commissioners and local veterans as well.

\*Also honoring the 2000 causalities in Afghanistan as requested by Comm Levin.

Agenda Item 8 Adjournment Meeting Adjourned, Next meeting is Nov 5th.

DOCUMENTS DEPT

Minutes of the 10/1/12 VAC Meeting written by Acting VAC Secretary ANN WEEBY, and APPROVED (as submitted) at the VAC Meeting of November 5, 2012.

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## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of October 1st, 2012

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Eduardo Ramirez at 6:00pm, starting with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Roll Call

In attendance for the meeting: Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Levin, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, D.Wong & R.Wong (10 Commissioners).

Absent; Commissioners, Crichlow (excused), Noetzel (excused-travel), Gibbs, Gruwell, Wilkerson,

Attending guests: Natalie Purcell, Elizabeth Brett, Leo Madrid, Tom Huggett, Jon Hendricks, Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Eddie E. Cordero, Fulton Tyrone Hopkins

#### Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera, 2nd, Comm. Levin. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting

Motion to accept minutes, of meeting of Sept. 10. 2012 as written, made by Comm. Levin, 2nd Comm Dacumos. With one correction meeting minutes passed unanimously.

#### Action Item

Molion made to approve moving Vice President Eduardo Ramirez to the position of President of the Veterans Affairs Commission for the rest of 2012, (and), leaving the position of Vice President vacant until the next election in January. Molion made by Comm. Levin, 2nd Comm. Baldonado, Motion passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Brett & Natalie Purcell gave a presentation on behalf of the Veteran justice outreach program.

#### Agenda Item 1 Officers Reports:

- A. President's Report: Nothing to report
- B. Vice President's Report: Currently, no VP

C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel is absent. Comm. Weeby is acting Secretary and taking notes. Bylaws are on the agenda next month. Please submit agenda items and speak up and participate to have your items on the upcoming agendas. Sec. Noetzel will be back for Nov's meeting.

### D. Committee Reports:

Women's Committee Report: Comm. Guy shared she will have a meeting in November. Also, the Women's Veteran Leadership conference is in Sacramento on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Agenda Item 2 Commission Goals and Plans:

What is the hiring policy for veterans in the City and County of San Francisco? Would like to see veterans get the same preference as the federal government where Veteran who meet the min requirements get hired noncompetitively.

Comm. Levin researched and shared the veteran hiring process for the City of San Francisco, attached. He urged that we help remind the Board of Supervisors and Mayor about this and make sure the City & all the departments are enforcing the existing policies to assist veterans applying for city jobs. President Ramirez asked that the commissioners to do further research before we talk to the Board of Supervisors or ask for any changes to the existing policies.

President Ramirez challenged commissioners to get together outside of monthly meeting to do research and bring new topics and actions to upcoming meetings. This would include adding items to upcoming agendas and/or inviting guests to present and educate the entire commission at upcoming meetings. He would like to see the commission tied into more veteran events happening around the city, including endorsing and supporting these events.

Old Business None

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, November 5, 2012 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA President Eduardo "Eddie" Ramirez, Presiding

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OCT 3 1 2012 SAN FRANCISCO

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval Action Item REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

s and/or Approval PUBLIC LIBRARY

a. Review of DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of October 1, 2012 (Action item)

Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

### 1. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report: President Ramirez
- B. Vice President's Report: (none position vacant)
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel to report.

#### 2. Committee Reports:

- Chairman S. Noetzel of Bylaws Committee to report on Action Plan for adoption of revised Bylaws. (See item 4, below)
- > Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report (if any).

#### 3. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

A. Open Forum on 2013 Goals & Plans. Note: Individual Commissioners are encouraged to speak out on their views of what the VAC should work on in 2013. Discussion to include expectations for increased participation by ALL Commissioners as the VAC moves forward.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. Consideration of new Commission BYLAWS as recommended by Bylaws Committee –
   followed by potential final adjustments and potential VOTE TO ADOPT (ACTION ITEM)
  - B. Report on status of planning for Veterans Day parade (Comm. Levin, lead)
  - C. Discussion and POTENTIAL ACTION on the Resolution of Censure (passed in August) with regard to the (non) Attendance record of Commissioner Chris GRUWELL.
  - D. Discussion and POTENTIAL ACTION on the status of the Veterans Court of San Francisco.

#### 5. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Floor opened for Reports/updates by Commissioners.

b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area, and REPORT on East Bay Stand-Down event

## 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Discussion only.

7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Discussion on latest developments in ongoing struggle to insure appropriate retention of building space and resources after retrofit remodel.

### 8. VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES

Commissioners to report on activities of various Veterans Organizations.

#### 9. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. City Policy on Fee Exemption for Veterans Ignored, Potential ACTION ITEM, Guest: Mr. David Glass
  - B. Discussion and POTENTIAL ACTION on the status of Veterans Hiring Procedures for the City of San Francisco.

#### 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities

- 11. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.
- 12. AJORNMENT

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## **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS**

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the FIRST Monday of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 104 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, at 401 Van Ness Avenue (across from City Hall).

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## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting

of November 5, 2012

## Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Eddle Ramlrez at 6:05pm, starting with the traditional Pledge of Alleglance.

#### Roll Ca

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Gibbs, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, D. Wong, R. Wong. (12)

Absent: Comm. A. Crichlow (excused, illness), Comm. D. Dacumos (excused, travel), Comm. C. Gruwell (no notice, unexcused.) Note: Commission strength now at 15 active members. 2 vacancies.

Attending Guests: Mr. Michael Maffel, Mr. Leo Madrid, Mr. George Saxton, Mr. Dave Glass, Mr. Mo Armstrong, Mr. Jean Chas Morris. Mr. Jim Dorrenkott and Ms. Carole Adell. (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was in attendance.)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Wilkerson (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Caldera Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of October 1, 2012 (as written by Acting Secretary Ann Weeby) made by Comm. Towers (2nd Comm. Baldonado). Without further discussion, Minutes for the October 1, 2012 VAC meeting passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- > Guest G. Claxton expressed his view that the veterans advocacy group Swords to Plowshares is not adequately supportive of the LBGT Community.
- Suest Jim Dorenkott announced the Vet-to-Vet conferences and workshops scheduled for the weekend of Nov. 16-18.
- > Guest Mo Armstrong introduced himself and spoke about the work that he is now doing in Veterans Advocacy.
- > Guest Carole Adell introduced herself and distributed flyers providing information on Federal Legislation to provide protection against fraud with regard to the processing of Asbestosis claims.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Officers REPORTS

A. President's Report; President Ramirez reported on his recent visit to the San Bruno Jall and his interaction with Veterans currently incarcerated there. He concludes that a Veterans Court would be of great benefit to both the Veteran population there, as well as to our community in general. He repeated his hope that working toward the establishment of such a court in S.F. would constitute a major effort for this Commission, in the 2013 term.

President Ramirez also reported on the success of the Veterans Film Festival recently held in the Veterans Building B. Vice-President's Report; None, No VP at present time.

C. Secretary's Report: Sec'y Noetzel reported that the BOS Rules Committee met on 11/1 to consider applications for opened seats on the SFVAC, but no decisions or recommendations were made as several of the applicants were unable to attend the hearing. They re-scheduled additional hearings for their next meeting, 11/15/12.

Agenda Item 2 — Committee Reports: None, other than business conducted under Agenda Item 4A, below.

Note: Comm. Guy reported that she must regretfully RESIGN as chair of the SFVAC Women's Caucus, due to a heavy new workload on her new job. She said she would re-consider Committee participation in the New Year.

#### Agenda Item 3 - Open Forum on Commission GOALS AND PLANS

- Comm. LevIn opened discussion with a question about the viability and room configuration of our new 'home' in City Hall, beginning in January. Commission agreed that some modification of room configuration might facilitate our meetings.
  - Comm. Glbbs expressed his hope that we continue to make progress in effective advocacy for establishment of a VETERANS COURT for the City of San Francisco.
  - Comm. Guy said she would like to see more effort to bring together the various (existing) Veterans Advocacy groups and Organizations.
  - Comm. Ramfrez introduced his hope to organize a Veterans Summlt to bring Veterans Program Coordinators from every college, University and Specialty school together, and to form a DATABASE to efficiently disseminate information important to the Veterans Community.
- Comm. Neetzel spoke of his hope that the SFVAC would concentrate on bolstering the efforts of the American Legion War Memorial Commission to retain appropriate Buildling Use Space for Veterans, within the War Memorial Veterans Buildling after the Retrofit Closure, He suggested that in 2013, we hold 3 JOINT MEETINGS, (with the ALWMC) to combine our efforts in this regard. He also proposed that it might be a good time to utilize out Charter Authority to hold PUBLIC HEARINGS on this Issue.

- Comm. Weeby expressed that she would like to see improvement of our visibility with an improved website as a vehicle to reach out to area veterans and advise them of places and programs that they can receive assistance and benefits.
- Comm. Caldera expressed that he would like to see the VAC begin to work with the City Department of Public Health...to try to identify, the LOCAL rate of suicide among our Veterans Community.
- Comm. Ramirez stated that he would like to see more concentration of effort, to strengthen the voice of Women Veterans in the next year – especially to build Mutual Respect between male and female veterans.
- Comm. Towers stated that he would like to focus on the "do-able" rather than set goals that are beyond our Charter.
- Comm. Levin suggested that the Commission would do well to select a few primary issues to work on.
- Comm. Caldera suggested we might organize one more Veterans Connect event in the building, prior to closure.
- Comm. Noetzel reminded the Commission that the new leadership of the VAC (as elected in January) will determine the major thrust of the Commission Goals/Plans for 2013, but that our collective input would help shape our Agenda for 2013.

#### Agenda Item 4 - OLD BUSINESS.

A Consideration of new Commission BYLAWS as recommended by Bylaws Committee, and potential VOTE TO ADOPT
(ACTION ITEM). As Chair of the Bylaws Committee, Comm. Noetzel took the floor to review the work of the Bylaws Committee
over the past hall-year, and its proposal for a MAJOR REVISION of the SFVAC Bylaws, as distributed at the August VAC
meeting. He asked Commissioners if there were any specific CHANGES that Commission members. Ramirez requests
MOTION. Comm. Noetzel offers MOTION to ADOPT unchanged, the major Bylaws Revision as presented by the Bylaws
Committee in August. (2<sup>rd</sup>, Comm. Towers). In discussion, Comm. Levin suggested that the propose Revisions be reviewed
by the City Atorney to Insure that there is no conflict with the CIty Code. Comm. Noetzel dered a view that the best way to
proceed is to ADOPT the new Bylaws, and then await identification of any portions that the City Attorney might take exception to.
Commissioners attending a meeting that meets the Quorum Threshold, is binding. Comm. Noetzel lagain urged that the
Commission take ACTION to move forward toward ADOPTION at this meeting. The question was called and President Ramirez
requested that a Roll Call Vote be taken on the Motion. The motion PASSED with all 12 Commisoners voting to ADOPT,
with none voting against and no abstentions. The NEW VAC BYLAWS, as recommended by the Bylaws Committee, are

- B. Report on status of planning for Veterans Day parade (Comm. Levin, lead) Comm. Levin announced that all plans for the parade on Sunday are now in place. The parade will include some 70 distinct Participating Units, and that Markers will be placed on Street at Marshaling are on 2" St. to indicate pre-parade alignment. All Commissioners are encouraged to participate.
- C. Discussion and POTENTIAL ACTION Re: Non Participation of Commissioner Chris GRUWELL. Set'y Noetzel read aloud a DRAFT of a letter to be sent to the Mayor and BOS on this issue. The letter requests the dismissal of Comm. Gruwell for non-participation in the business of the VAC, including his absence in 9 of 10 VAC meetings in 2012, to date. Comm. Levin suggests that there is no need to copy the BOS on the letter, as Comm. Gruwell is a Mayoral Appointee. Pres. Ramirez suggests that the letter be modified to concentrate ONLY on the poor attendance record, and omit other non-participation references. Comm. Towers makes MOTION that the letter be sent to the mayor, edited to cite only the unacceptable attendance record. (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado). The question was called, a vote taken, and the MOTION PASSED, unanimously. Set'y Noetzel will prepare a letter, edited as directed, for signature by President Ramirez.
- D. Discussion and <u>POTENTIAL ACTION</u> on the status of the <u>Veterans Court of San Francisco</u>. See'y Noetzel suggests that any documentation moved forward on this issue include the excellent 10-page document published by the <u>SFVAC Medical</u> Center, titled: WHY CREATE A COURT ESPECIALLY FOR VETERANS. Pres. Ramirez then suggests that we TABLE this item for the time being, and make it a major advocacy issue for the 2013 term. Item TABLED.

#### Agenda Item 5 - Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

No new report, other than to confirm that Ms. Cheryl Cook, Dir. Of the County Veterans Service office, has retired.
b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

No Report.

c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Gibbs reported on a very successful EAST BAY VETERANS STAND-DOWN event. Which was held over the 4day period of September 13-16, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, in Pleasanton, CA. He reported that over 400 Veterans attended, and most received urgently needed on-site services.

Agenda Item 6 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Pres. RamIrez announced that Senator Mark Leno has introduced Senate BIII SB1170 which would prohibit deceptive marketing by insurance firms who prey on veterans and seniors. Full info available on Senator Leno website.

#### Agenda Item 7, WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Pres. Ramirez announced that the ALWMC is running a White Eagle Sale on Dec. 1 & 2 from 9am to 5pm. Items for sale include, used office equipment, furniture, etc. Comm. LeVin announced that Building Secretary Jamie Lopez has now been hired FULL TIME to insure prep for Building Coorsive in spring of 2013, and to facilitate the start of remodel construction on 71/1/12.

#### Agenda Item 8 - VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES

- > Comm. Towers announced several events of interest to Vets in the near future, including the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Profiles of Courage Dinner Produced by SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES, to honor vets who have successful completed their programs. He said that he would send out an Email Blast, to provide full details on all of these events.
- > Pres. RamIrez announced that San Francisco State Univ. is opening a Vet Center in a Grand Opening event tomorrow. Details may be found on the SFSU Website.

Comm. Ray Wong announced that on Veterans Day, numerous bay-area restaurants will offer free meals for veterans. Details available on the VFW website.

- > Comm. Wong also announced that there will be a re-opening of Mojave Cross ceremony, at the Mojave site.
- Comm. Caldera reminded all that there was a Holiday Party at the end of the December VAC meeting last year, and asked if Commissioners were interested in such an event this year, Pres. Ramlrez asked if anyone was interested they should contact Comm. Caldera directive.

#### Agenda Item 9 - NEW BUSINESS.

- A. City Policy on Fee Exemption for Veterans Ignored, Potential ACTION ITEM. Guest: Mr. David Glass addressed the Commission to report on an important topic regarding a new practice by the City Health Department to arbitrarily levee fees...In direct contradiction to the California Code (Sec. 16102) which provides that VETERANS are EXEMPT from all FEES when selling food-stuffs and other merchandise in California. He stated that his food-vending business has enjoyed this specific benefit for over 2 decades, until a recent change whereby the Health Department has arbitrarily leveed substantial "inspection fees" to his Veteran Owned business.
  - Comm. Noetzel stated that this is exactly the type of issue that the SFVAC should be effective in resolving, in its Charter Advisory Function.

Comm. Levin makes MOTION that VAC write an Advisory Letter to the BOS and City Administration, appraising them of the facts in this case, and requesting an answer with respect to this apparent revocation of a specific Veterans Benefit. (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Noetzel, as he states that this issue is a litmus test of our ability to get action from the city on a "nuts and bolts" item for the veterans of San Francisco. After some discussion, a VOTE was held and the MOTION passed unanimously. In further discussion, Comm. Towers offered some ideas on how this issue might be researched. Comm. Levin then offered a SECOND MOTION, (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Noetzel) to appoint Comm. Towers to be the LEAD person to fully research this item, and to Report on It, and DRAFT an Advisory Letter (on the issue) for presentation at the Dec. VAC meeting. A vote on that Motion passed unanimously and Comm. Towers accepted responsibility to present his findings (and a Draft Letter), at the VAC meeting of 12/1/12.

B. Discussion and POTENTIAL ACTION on the status of Veterans Hiring Procedures for the City of San Francisco.

Pres. Ramirez TABLED this item in the interests of time. (To be included on future Agenda).

Agenda Item#10 ANNOUNCEMENTS: (See Agenda Item #8, above) No additional announcements.

Agenda Item 11 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.

Agenda Item #12 - AJORNMENT

Minutes of the 11/5/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the VAC Meeting of Dec. 3, 2012.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104

Monday, December 3, 2012 MEETING AGENDA

President Eduardo "Eddie" Ramirez, Presiding

NOV 9.9 7007

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval

a. Review of Sec's Noetzel's DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 5 November, 2012

Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

## 1. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report: President Ramfrez to Report, including REVIEW of the time, place, and logistics of the JANUARY meeting of the Commission, in Room 416, City Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 8th of January, 2013 (i.e. 2nd Tues.) B. Vice President's Report: (none - position vacant)
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel to Benort including description of recent/relevant Correspondence and UPDATE on status of appointment of New Commissioners, including introduction of new Commissioners (if any).

#### 2. Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2013 Term.

- A. Secretary to distribute copies of portions of the ByLaws which pertain to, and describe the Duties and Responsibilities of each of the 3 Officer Positions that constitute the Executive Board.
- B. President to open floor for NOMINATIONS, for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, in accordance with ByLaws adopted on11/5/12. Secretary to Record all Nominations.

#### 3. Committee Reports:

> Chairpersons from other Standing Committees to Report (If any).

### 4. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. City Policy on Fee Exemption for Veterans Ignored. Comm. Towers to report on his research/reccomendations on this issue, including Potential ACTION on draft letter to City Administration.
- B. Update on advocacy for the establishment of a Veterans Court of San Francisco. Potential ACTION

## 5. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Floor opened for Reports/updates by Commissioners.

b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area, and

REPORT on East Bay Stand-Down event

## 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Discussion only.

7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Discussion on latest developments in ongoing struggle to insure appropriate retention of building space and resources after retrofit remodel

8. VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES

Commissioners to report on activities of various Veterans Organizations.

### 9. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. Distribution of Commission BYLAWS as adopted in November, and discussion of further amendment as recommended by City Attorney, (Lead: Comm. Noetzel, Bylaws Committee Chair).
- B. Discussion and development of research plan on the status of Veterans Hiring Procedures for the City of San Francisco.

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activities

- 11. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.
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## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting

of December 3, 2012

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the meeting was called to order by **President Eddie Ramirez** at 6:04pm, starting with the traditional **Pledge of Allegiance**.

## Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gibbs, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, D. Wong, R. Wong, (12)

Absent: Comm. Baldonado (excused, illness), Comm. Wilkerson (excused, illness), Comm. C. Gruwell (no notice, unexcused,)
Note: Commission strength on this date still at 15 active members, 2 vacancies.

Attending Guests: Mr. Michael Maffel, Mr. John Gallagher, Mr. Lee Burnette. Ms. Angela Jenkins (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.)

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. D. Wong (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Guy Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of November 5, 2012 (as written by Secretary s. Noetzel) made by Comm. Levin (2nd Comm. Guy). Without further discussion, Minutes for the 11/5/12, VAC meeting passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Angela Jenkins (a Veteran), introduced herself and expressed her interest in the Commission.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Officers REPORTS

- A President's Report; President Ramirez reviewed the time, place, and logistics of the NEXT meeting of the Commission, n Room 416, City Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, 2013 (i.e. 2<sup>th</sup> Tues.), starting at 6 pm. He also asked that Commissioner Caldera coordinate with City Hall Space Allocation Manager, Roward LANE, to insure that Room 416 is opened and ready for our use, just prior to the meeting. Commissioner Caldera confirmed that he will cover this task. There was some discussion about the somewhat awkward "Hearing Room" configuration of Room 4 (versus our traditional "conference table" format), but in the end the Commission decided to try our first meeting using the existing room configuration.
- B. Vice President's Report: (none position vacant)
- C. Secretary's Report: Secretary Noetzel began his Report with an Invitation Announcement that he had received earlier in the day – namely a Mayor's Invitation for Commissioners to attend the World Tree of Life Lighting Ceremony on Tues, 12/4, 5:30 to 7 pm, in the City Hall Rotunda. Copies of the Mayor's invitation were distributed.

Sec'y Noetzel then reported on recent significant Correspondence, including and exchange of correspondence to re-affirm the Resignation of Commissioner THOMPSON, back in June. Sec'y Noetzel affirmed that there is now a posted Vacancy Notice for that seat (i.e. Seat #2). Comm. GIBBS affirmed that he will be making application for that seat.

Sec'y Noetzel also confirmed that the GRUWELL Letter (Subject: Call for Dismissal of Non-Participating Commissioner), as mandated by the Commission in November, was signed by Pres, Ramirez and sent to the Mayor.

#### 2. Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2013 Term.

- A. Secretary Noetzel distributed copies of the By-Laws that were unanimously passed by the Commission last month, making particular reference to the page that provides a listing of the PRIMARY DUTIES of each elected officer. He reminded Commissioners that when they make NOMINATIOS to the various offices, they verify beforehand that the potential nominee is aware of the Duties of the Office, and is WILLING to execute such duties, if elected.
- B. President Ramirez then moved to the Nominating Process to for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, in accordance with ByLaws adopted on11/5/12. He started by opening the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission Secretary. Comm. R. WONG nominated current Secretary. Comm. Stephen NOETZEL for Secretary.
  Comm. Noetzel accepted the nomination. With no response to further calls for Nominations to the position, Pres. Ramirez CLOSED nominations for Secretary, adding that another Nominating Period would be available next month, just prior to the VOTING procedure.

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Pres. Ramirez then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission VICE PRESIDENT.

Comm. Noetzel nominated Comm. Jordan TOWERS for Vice president. Comm. Towers accepted the nomination. Comm. Caldera then nominated Comm. Alexandra CRICHLOW for Vice president. Comm. Crichlow decilined the Nomination.

Comm. Crichlow then nominated Comm. Dottle GUY for Vice president. Comm. Guy accepted the nomination.
With no response to further calls for Nominations for the position, Pres. Ramirez CLOSED nominations for Vice President,
again adding that another Nominating Period would be available next month, just prior to the VOTING procedure.

Pres. Ramirez then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission PRESIDENT.

Comm. Towers nominated (current President) Comm. Eduardo RAMIREZ for President. Comm. Ramirez accepted the Nomination. With no response to further calls for Nominations to the position, Pres. Ramirez CLOSED nominations for President, again adding that another Nominating Period would be available next month, just prior to the VOTING procedure.

To Review: The current list of accepted nominations for the 2013 term is:

- > For the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. S. NOETZEL
- For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. D. GUY, and Comm. J. TOWERS
- > For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. E. RAMIREZ

### 3. Committee Reports: Chairpersons from Standing Committees to Report.

Comm. Dottle GUY reported (as Chair) of the COMMITTEE on WOMEN'S ISSUES Within the Veterans and Military Community. She announced that the Committee held its initial meeting just sprior to the VAC meeting, and that they established that their initial priority issues would be Women's' Health care and Sexual Trauma in the military. Additional issues would include Homeless Female veterans, and the high rate of unemployment for female veterans. Comm. Guy announced that the Committee plans to meet again in February.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

### A. City Policy on Fee Exemption for Veterans ignored.

Lead Commissioner (on this issue), Comm. Towers reported on his research on this issue. He stated that he went directly to the S.F. Dept. of Public Health, to bring to them the issue as explained by (Veteran) Dave Glass, at the November meeting. From there, he was encouraged to seek an opinion (on the issue), from the office of the City Attorney. In due time the City Attorney ruled in complete agreement with Mr. Glass; specifically, that there was no requirement that a veteran must be 'on-site' to retain Fee Exempt Status — so long as the vendor items being sold were the property of the vendor.

President Ramirez reported that he received an Emall from the Director of the Health Department, advising him of the lavorable ruling to veterans in general and to Mr. Glass in particular, and that Yeterans vending food and merchandise may continue to do so on a Fee Exempt basis in accordance with California law.

Comm. Noetzel complemented Comm. Towers for an excellent job in following up on this issue as assigned, and noted that this represents a tangible victory for city Veterans.

#### B. Update on advocacy for the establishment of a Veterans Court of San Francisco. Potential ACTION

President Ramirez TABLED this issue, in favor of taking it up again in the new year, when new Commissioner Michael MAFFEI will be able to take the lead on this as he is an Assistant D.A. with SF District Attorney (and veteran) George Gascon.

#### 5. Current VETERANS PROJECTS & REPORTS ON ONGOING ISSUES

## a. Veterans EMPLOYMENT.

Pres. Ramirez announced that he has an opening for a Clerk (GS5) position at the VA Med Ctr. @ Ft. Miley. b. Veterans HEALTH AND WELFARE.

No new discussion/developments in this area

#### c. HOMELESS Veterans.

Comm. Glbbs reported on incoming donations of clothing and bedding. Pres. RamIrez offered to utilize his truck for redistribution of such donations to organizations where they can be put to use to help Homeless Vets.

6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Comm. R. Wong mentioned that earlier in the day he sent (to Commissioners) an Email, which reviewed some key Veterans LegIslation supported by the VFW in 2012. They included 4 Calif. Bills; 3 of which were signed into law and one Vetoed by the Governor. Comm. LevIn suggested that the items be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting for Advice Letter recommendations.

#### Agenda Item 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Comm. Levin announced that the American Legion War Memorial Commission will meet at 6pm on Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, in Room 104, to discuss (among other items), the latest developments in ongoing struggle to insure appropriate retention of building space and resources (in the Veterans Building) after retrofit remodel.

## Agenda Item 8. VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES

Comm. Towers announced that SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES has recently opened its new facility at 150 Otis St. (S.F.), thereby providing a brand new home for some 75 formerly homeless veterans. The official Grand-Opening ceremony is scheduled for January 30 at the facility.

## Agenda Item 9. NEW BUSINESS.

#### A. Distribution of Commission BYLAWS

Sec'y Noetzel distributed copies of an FINAL DRAFT of the new Commission Bylaws for review and comment (over the next month), by all Commissioners. This new document includes all format and substance corrections/recommendations made by City Attorney Snodgrass after review of our recently revised (and adopted) Bylaws. The Final Version of the Commission Bylaws will be considered for Ratification as an Action Item on the SFVAC Agenda for the next meeting.

B. Veterans Hirring Procedures for the City of San Francisco. President Ramirez TABLED this issue, in favor of taking it up again in the New Year, when new Committee assignments are made.

#### Agenda Item 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Comm. GUY announced that she can acquire tickets to the Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> Kraft HUNGER BOWL football game at AT&T Park, S.F. (Navy vs. Arizona State).
- Comm. R. Wong announced that the annual Wreaths Across America event at the Presidlo will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, starting at 8:30am. Contact him for additional info
- Comm. Caldera announced that A.L. Post 315 will host its annual Hollday Party, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, in the Veterans Building. He distributed fivers for the event.
- Pres. RamIrez announced that on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December the S.F. Police department will host a Bicycle Give-Away event for needy persons in San Francisco. If anyone knows of a homeless or needy Veteran, they should contact him.

#### Agenda Item 11. Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the Veterans and armed services community.

## Agenda Item 12. AJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

Minutes of the 12/3/12 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the SFVAC Meeting of 1/8/13.



# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101

# Tuesday, January 8, 2013 MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA

President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

BOLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet) REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item) REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)

a. Review of DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 3 December 2012 Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

### 2. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report: President Ramirez to present final President's Report for 2012 Term, including introduction of three (3) newly appointed members of the Commission, namely: Commissioner Lee BURNETTE, appointed to BOS Seat #2, formerly held by Comm. Anthony ALFIDI Commissioner John GALLAGER, appointed to BOS to Seat #6, (formerly Comm. George GIBBS) Commissioner Michael MAFFEI, appointed by BOS on 12/4/12 in Seat #6, (formerly Comm. Dara WONG):
Note: Above Commissioners were appointed by BOS on 12/4/12, and appointment term runs through 1/3/1/6. DOCUMENTS DEPT

### B. Secretary's Report;

- ACTION ITEM: Secretary Noetzel to present NEW BYLAWS for Ratification.
- ACTION ITEM: Secretary Noetzel to present DRAFT of ANNUAL REPORT of 2012
  - (as required in By- Laws), Discussion and potential Motion for Adoption and Ratification.
- Correspondence & contacts since precious meeting.

# JAN - 4 2013

- SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
- NEW Business Final NOMINATIONS and ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2013 TERM. A. President Ramirez to open floor for any potential additional Nominations for Office (including Self-Nomination).

  - B. President Ramirez to afford equal floor time for Nominated Candidates to announce their 'Platform'. or Administrative Plans, Goals, and Vision for the VAC, if elected,
  - C. President Ramirez to administer Election of Officers by Public Written Ballot, Commission Secretary will display a large format 'tally sheet' to display election results.
  - D. President Ramirez to Preside over formal installation of New Officers, for the 2013 Term. after which the balance of the meeting will be turned over to the new PRESIDENT/Chair.

## From this point forward: Newly Elected President, Presiding

### 4. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

President to preside over Open Discussion Goals and Plans for the Commission for the 2013 term. Commissioners are urged to present their individual ideas and views in this area for future consideration/implementation, PRESIDENT may take this opportunity to Appoint standing COMMITTEES on various issues, Potential ACTION ITEM.

## 5. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)

Comm. Noetzel to report on research on proposed Federal FACT Acts. Re: Asbestos Claims.

### 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Review of list of Veterans Related Bills considered by Calif, State Legislature In 2012, Consideration of potential development of correspondence to express views of VAC. Potential ACTION ITEM.

### 7 WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Brief reports from Liaison Commissioners on any significant developments in this area.

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events/activitie
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in ALL wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and recent suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 10. AJORNMENT Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Jan. 8, 2013

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the First Ever City Hall Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Eddle Ramirez at 6:08pm, starting with the traditional Pleage of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Levin, Maffel, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong. (15)

Absent: None (100% attendancel) Note: Commission strength on this date still at 15 active members, 2 vacancies. Attending Guests: M. Latonia Dixon, Mr. Bruce Smith, and former Commissioner Dara Wong (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.)

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Guy) Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motton to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of November 5, 2012 (as written by Secretary s. Noetzel) made by Comm. Towers (2nd Comm. Guy). Without further discussion, Minutes for the 11/5/12, VAC meeting passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Latonia Dixon (a Veteran), introduced herself and distributed Flyers for a 2/10/13 Black History Month Celebration to specifically honor the contributions of African American Veterans. The daylong event will be in Room 223 of the WMVB and will feature the screening of the film "Fled Tails" as well as forums, honored guests, and a dinner.

### Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports

A. President's Report; President Ramirez began with the introduction of three (3) newly appointed members of the Commission, and asked each of them for a short dissertation on their background:

- > Commissioner Lee BURNETTE, (now appointed to VAC BOS Seat #2 replacing Comm. Alfidi), said that he had served 5 years in the US Navy (2005-¹10). He worked as a Communications Electrician and Search/Rescue swimmer. On discharge from active duty he took full advantage of education benefits attending City College and serving as Treasurer of the Veterans Alliance group there. He is also working as a staff member in the office of Board of Supervisor President David Chiu.
- > Commissioner John GALLAGER, (now appointed to VAC BOS to Seat #6 replacing Comm. Gibbs) stated that he had served in the US Marine Corps, as a Mortar man and was discharged in 1999. He has worked in advocacy for veterans in several capacities since then and is currently a VA Veterans Claims Representative working full time to serve veterans at the County Veterans Service Office.
- > Commissioner Michael MAFFEI, (now appointed to VAC BOS Seat #6, replacing Comm. Dara Wong) stated that he also served in the US Navy working as an attorney in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, with active duty from March 2006 to August 2010. At the Ventura County Naval Base he served as a defense attorney and was then deployed to Baghdad Iraq from Dec. '06 to June '07, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was then transferred to Washington, DC, and served as a law clerk to a judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, and then the Appellate Defense Division. Following his release from active duty Mike affiliated with the U.S. Navy Reserves, and was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander (E-4) in August, 2012. Comm. Maffel now works for the City of San Francisco as a trial attorney. He also announced that he plans to be married in the spring. Nowever he will likely be recalled to Active Duty for a "Pmonth assignment, in the summer."

After their introductions, all three new members were welcomed with a warm round of congratulatory applause.

### B. Secretary's Report.

Secretary Noetzel began with an Agenda Action Item; namely consideration of the latest version of the SFVAC
BYLAWS for adoption and ratification. He made reference to the last document that he had distributed at the previous
meeting, (i.e. the UPDATED version of the newly revised and ratified BYLAWS of the SFVAC), noting that the subject version
included no actual content revision; merely changes in format as recommended by the office of the City Attorney. Having had
adequate opportunity to review the document, Comm. Levin made a MOTION to adopt the updated BYLAWS, as written
(2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Weeby). In discussion, Comm. Levin reminded all that further changes to the Bylaws may be made at any
time that the Commission sees fit, and suggested that we move forward with the updated version as presented. Pres. Ramirez
called the question and a vote was taken. The revised Bylaws of 5 November, 2012 were adopted and ratifled, by
unanimous vote, and will subsequently be posted to the Commission Websits.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of January 8, 2013 Page 2 of 5

Secretary's Report (continued)

Secretary Noetzel followed with a second Agenda Action Item; namely consideration of the earlier distributed DRAFT of the SFVAC 2012 ANNUAL REPORT. Once again, Comm. Levin offered a MOTION to adopt the REPORT as written (2<sup>nd</sup>. Comm. Wilkerson). In subsequent discussion, Comm. Caldera stated that significant work had been accomplished, by several members of the Commission, to facilitate the transition (for VAC Meetings) to our new 'home' in City Hall, in advance of the pending 2-year closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building, He stated that such efforts the included in the report. Comm. Levin pointed out that the actual transition (to City Hall) was made at the start of 2013. He added his hope that the successful move, and all efforts to facilitate that move, might be more appropriately reflected in the Annual Report for the current year (2013). After additional miscellaneous discussion, Pres. Ramírez mandated that efforts to effect the successful move be appropriately indicated within the 2013 Annual Report. He then called the question and a vote was taken. The 2012 SFVAC ANNUAL REPORT was adopted (with only one minor spelling correction) and ratified, by unanimous vote, and will subsequently be forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, as per Charter requirement.

Secretary Noetzel closed his report with a short update on the status of Commissioner Chris Gruwell. In recent correspondence with Ms. Wheaton of the Mayor's office it was confirmed that Mr. Gruwell has indeed resigned from the Commission due to personal issues. It was further established that the Mayor's office is still seeking a formal Resignation document, but all are in agreement that the position is effectively vacant, and will be indicated as such on all current Commission Rosters. Sec'y Noetzel confirmed that he has updated all Commission Rosters to indicate TWO vacancles; those belian?

- 1. The opened (Mayoral appointed) seat due to the resignation of Comm. Gruwell, and,
- 2. The opened (BOS appointed) Seat #2, due to the resignation of Commissioner Thompson.

Updated Confidential Commission ROSTERS were then distributed to all Commission members. Comm. Towers asked if Rosters could also be sent to Commissioners via Email. After some discussion it was agreed that Electronic distribution of the Roster would be the preferred method for transmitting updates. End of Secretaries Report.

## Agenda item 3 - NEW Business: Final NOMINATIONS and ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2013 TERM.

President Ramirez reviewed the current status of nominations (as posted on a large format summary board in full view of all Commissioners, to wit:

For Commission PRESIDENT: Commissioner Eduardo Ramirez For Commission VICE-PRESIDENT:
Commissioner Dottie Guy
Commissioner Jordan Towers

For Commission SECRETARY: Commissioner Stephen Noetzel

### ELECTION PROCEEDINGS FOR THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY.

President Ramírez then opened the floor for ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS for the position of SECRETARY. Commissioner Towers responded by nominating Commissioner Lee Burnett. Mr. Burnette accepted the nomination and his name was added to the summary board. Hearing no additional nominations for the position of Secretary, President Ramírez then moved the process by affording opportunity for both candidates for Secretary to announce their qualification and interest in serving as Commission Secretary.

Comm. Burnette led off by stating that he is motivated to become an asset to the Commission by use of his experience in working with fellow student-veterans at City College, where veteran enrollment has increased from 400, to over 1500 in recent months. In addition to his leadership role in the City College Veterans Alliance, he is now working as a aide in the office of BOS President David Chiu. He feels that this background and his interest in the work of the commission make him a good choice for the position of Secretary.

In his statement, Comm. Noetzel said that he is satisfied to stand on his record and body of work as Commission Secretary for the past 2 years. He stated that he was indeed ready to pass on the work of Commission Secretary to a new volunteer and hoped to work with Comm. Burnette and others so that they can gain experience needed to execute this complex job.

President Ramirez then moved forward to administer a PUBLIC BALLOT VOTE (as required by law) for the office of SECRETARY. City Attorney Snodgrass and guest Dara Wong were asked to assist in tabulation and verification of the marked ballots. After tabulating the marked ballots. Mr. Snodgrass announced the results:

- > Commissioner NOETZEL received a total of ELEVEN VOTES (11), (Baldonado, Crichlow, Dacumos, Guy, Levin, Maffei, Noetzel, Ramirez, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong).

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of January 8, 2013 Page 3 of 5

(Election Results for position of Commission SECRETARY continued),

There were no abstentions so with all ballots tabulated President Ramirez announced that Commissioner STEPHEN NOETZEL is officially elected as VAC SECRETARY for the 2013 Term.

### ELECTION PROCEEDINGS FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT.

President Ramirez then moved on to proceedings for the election of Commission VP by reminding all that at present there were TWO standing nominations for that office, those being Comm. GUY and Comm. TOWERS. He then opened the floor for ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS for the position of VICE PRESIDENT. Hearing no additional nominations for the position of VP, President Ramirez then moved the process by affording opportunity for both VP candidates for to announce their qualification and interest in serving in that capacity.

Comm. Guy led off by stating that she is motivated to join the leadership of the Commission as part of her work in past years representing, in particular, the special issues of Female Veterans. She has worked on veterans' issues and advocacy in a National Women in Leadership Campaign to highlight Female Veterans Issues. She feels this advocacy will benefit the Commission should she be voted to a Leadership role.

In his statement, Comm. Towers stated that he had been an active and outspoken participant in Commission proceedings since his appointment some 18 months ago. He cited his work on the Bylaws Committee as well as his recent efforts on behalf of a fellow veteran as examples of his initiative, interest, and leadership capabilities.

President Ramírez then moved forward to administer a BALLOT MARKED ELECTION for the office of VICE PRESIDENT.

After tabulating the marked ballots, Mr. Snodgrass announced the results:

- > Commissioner TOWERS received a total of EIGHT VOTES (8),
  (Baldonado, Burnette, Dacumos, Gallagher, Maffei, Towers, Weeby, Wong).
- > Commissioner GUY received a total of SIX VOTES (6), (Caldera, Crichlow, Guy, Noetzel, Ramirez, Wilkerson).

There was ONE abstention (Comm. Levin) so with all ballots tabulated **President Ramirez** announced that Commissioner JORDAN TOWERS is officially elected as VAC VICE PRESIDENT for the 2013 Term.

### ELECTION PROCEEDINGS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT.

President Ramirez then moved on to proceedings for the election of Commission PRESIDENT. He reminded all present that there was only one nominee for the position at this time, that being himself, Comm. Eduardo RAMIREZ. He then opened the floor for ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS for the position of PRESIDENT. Hearing no additional nominations for the position of VP, President Ramirez then CLOSED nominations for the position of President. He then provided a short recap of his own experience and his earlier stated Goals and Plans for the Commission in 2013. He stated that his #1 Goal was to see the establishment of a VETERANS COURT in the City of San Francisco. A secondary goal would be to increase the level of respect afforded to Veteran in general, and in particular, to establish an appropriate level of respect for the female Veterans in our community, (See Agandai time 4 for more on this subject).

President Ramirez then moved forward to administer a BALLOT MARKED ELECTION for the office of PRESIDENT.

After tabulating the marked ballots, Mr. Snodgrass announced the results:

> Commissioner RAMIREZ received a total of FIFTEEN VOTES (15 - i.e. unanimous) (Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Crichlow, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Levin, Maffei, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wona)

Commissioner EDUARDO RAMIREZ is officially elected as VAC PRESIDENT for the 2013 Term.

The meeting continued forward, from this point, with President Ramirez presiding as the 2013 President of the SFVAC.

Agenda Item 4 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

President Ramirez announced his prioritized LIST of specific GOALS and PLANS for the SFVAC in 2013, as follows:

- Goal #1: Work for the establishment of a VETERANS COUT within the City of San Francisco. (He appointed Comm. Michael Maffel as LEAD Commissioner in this effort.)
- Coal #2: Work for significant progress to establish appropriate RESPECT for the Veterans Community of San Francisco in general, and in particular, to establish a new level of respect for FEMALE VETERANS, including personal safety and security protections. (He appointed Comm. Dorothy Guy as LEAD Commissioner in this effort.)

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of January 8, 2013 Page 5 of 5

Agenda item 9 - (Honors Report)

At the suggestion of Comm. Levin, and after considerable discussion within the Commission, the text of the traditional Honors Report made prior to our Moment of Silence, was revised/expanded this month (added text in RED) as follows:

Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

In addition to these, for this particular Report, we honor the memory of three specific US Service Veterans who have recently passed; those being:

- > Senator Daniel Inouye, a WWII Medal of Honor winner and senior US Senator from Hawaii (who passed on 12/17/12).
- > Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf who commanded Coalition Forces in the Persian Gulf War (who passed on 12/27/12).
- > Mr. Walter Newman a veteran of US Military service who was instrumental in establishing the City College Veterans
  Alliance (who also passed in December.)
- 10. AJORNMENT. Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes of the 1/8/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the SFVAC Meeting of 2/12/13.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of January 8, 2013 Page 5 of 5

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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco Mailing Address: War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101

> Tuesday, February 12, 2013 MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)

REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)

a. Review of DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 8 January, 2013

Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

### 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Ramirez to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Call for volunteers to serve as Liaison (i.e. "Lead") or Committee members on various issues.
- B. Vice Presidents Report: V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Discussion on potential utilization of Social Media Accounts for SFVAC
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Correspondence & contacts since precious meeting.
  - March 4, 2013 meeting of Secretaries of all City Commissions/Boards.

# NEW Business –

- A. Potential Action Item with regard to formal request for City Code Change(s) on 3 distinct issues:
  - 1. The Appointment Date PILE-UP.
  - 2. DIVERSITY MANDATES for Individual Seats.
  - 3. Commission OVERSIZE.
  - B. Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop (Lead, Comm. Guy)

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

4. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Further discussion of potential VAC GOALS and PLANS for 2013.

FEB - 7 2013

5. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)

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6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Review, Discussion and Potential Action to approve letter of appreciation regarding 3 new recently passed State Laws of significant benefit to VETERANS.

7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Brief reports regarding developments in this area.

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Feb. 12, 2013

### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the February Meeting (of the SFVAC was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by Vice-President Jordan Towers at 6:02pm, (Note: Pres. Ramfrez was inbound to meeting after a late work schedule). Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Alleglance.

#### Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Baldonado, Burnette, Caidera, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Levin, Maffel, Noetzei, Bamirez, Towers, Wilkerson, Wong, (13)

Absent: Comm. Crichlow, and Comm. Weeby - both excused by President.

Note: Commission strength on this date still at 15 active members, 2 vacancies.

Attending Guests: Mr. Ron Perez, Mr. Joe Bobrow, Mr. Jake Gorfrew, Ms. Mary Tramil, Alex Lyon, and former Commissioner Dara Wong (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.)

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado) Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

## Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of January 8, 2013 (as written by Secretary s. Noetzel) made by Comm. Caldera (2nd Comm. Maffel). Without further discussion, Minutes for the 1/8/13, VAC meeting passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

- Guest Dr. Joseph Bobrow introduced himself as the founder and President of the COMING HOME PROJECT. He explained that it is a non-profit organization that sponsors Re-integration Retreats for Veterans and families. They are seeking support to plan a Retreat at Camp Mather.
- Squest Alex Lyon introduced himself as the Assist. Manager of the St. Anthony's Foundation. He is interested in finding Veterans who would like to tell their stories about their own re-integration experiences after returning to civilian life. He left printed matter about his program.

### Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports

A. President's Report:

Due to the unavailability of President Ramirez tat start of meeting, the President's Report was curtailed by Chairman Towers.

# B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Towers reported on progress made in utilization of Social Media Accounts for SFVAC. He has been working with the office of the Mayor in development of city guidelines for Commissions in this area, and has now opened a TWITTER account for the SFVAC, i.e. 'sf@vac'. There are continuing discussions with regard to the establishment of a FaceBook VAC Page, as well as potential to upgrade the VAC website with thumbnall profiles (including photos) of Commissioners.

Comm. Caldera asked about the potential for adding televising VAC meetings, and requested that the subject be placed on a future AGENDA for a full discussion.

### C. Secretary's Report;

Sec'y Noetzel reported that as Secretary of the SFVAC, he has been honored by a rare Invitation to attend a meeting of the Secretaries of a group of some 50 Pollcy Making Commissions in the City. The 3/11 juncheon is chaired by the Secretary of the San Francisco Metro Transportation Authority (SFMTA) Board of Directors. The issue of How to Incorporate Social Media Entitles into City Commissions and Boards, is among a variety of subjects to be discussed at the conference,

Secretary Noetzei also reported that he has made progress in delegating certain aspects of the many tasks of the Secretary, including appointment of Comm. Jordan Towers as the SFVAC Social Media Coordinator, Additionally, and Comm. Lee Burnette has been delegated specific dutles as the SFVAC Administrative Manager. Aforementioned Commissioners will be reporting on progress in these areas at future SFVAC meetings.

At this point, seeing that Pres. Ramirez had arrived, V.P. Towers called for a 3-minute RECESS in the proceedings for a "gavel transition" that enabled the President to Chair the balance of the meeting.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of February 12, 2013 Page 2 of 4

Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business (Note: President Ramirez, Presiding)

- A. Discussion on City Code Changels on 3 distinct issues:
  - 1. The Appointment Date PILE-UP.
  - 2. DIVERSITY MANDATES for Individual Seats.
  - 3. Commission OVERSIZE.

Pres. Ramirez asked Sec'y Noetzel to further explain a document he had distributed, titled:

Potential requests for changes to the CITY CODE, with Respect to the SFVAC.

Secty Noetzel staraed with the last item. (i.e. Item 3A3: Commission OVERSIZE) by explaining that this Item may already be moot by now. On 27 the BOS Rules Committee had already taken up the currently vacant BOS seat (#2), and forwarded the selection of Ms. Mary Tramil for full board approval. Furthermore the office of the Mayor was currently interviewing candidates to fill the vacant Mayoral seat as well. In short, the Commission will soon be back to 17 seated members and the best opportunity for reduction back to 15 members has passed.

In discussion on item 3A1, the Appointment Date PILE-UP:

- Sec'y Noetzel reiterated that on 1/31/15, NINE of the 17 authorized Commission appointments will expire, at once, thereby creating potential of a Commission with very little experience as a body.
- Comm. Caldera pointed out that four of the nine expiring commissions are Mayoral appointments (Crichlow, Weeby, Wong and person filling current vacancy).
- Comm. Towers quoted from Original Charter of Commission, citing provisions that INITIAL APPOINTMENTS insured STAGGERED expiration dates, to preclude the very PILE-UP situation we are in.
- Comm. LevIn suggested we write a letter to Mayor and BOS to explain our concerns on this issue, as well as those of item 3A2. (see below).

### In discussion on item 3A2, DIVERSITY MANDATES for Individual Seats:

- Comm. Levin suggested that we should ask the Mayor and BOS to simply make all appointments "At Large", and
  mandate retention of the current Diversity Requirements with each vacancy as it occurs. He asked City Attorney Snodgrass if
  such a procedure would work.
- City Attorney Snodgrass replied that the difficulty arises if and when there is more than one vacancy at the same time. There would be no guideline to tell appointing body which seat could be filled 'at Large', and which would carry a Diversity Requirement.

President Ramirez then tabled further discussion on this Agenda Item, and asked that Commissioners Towers, Noetzel, and LeVI work together to draft the concerns of the Commission on items 3A1, and 3A2 In a LETTER, which would then be reviewed by the City Attorney for his advise on how to effect corrective changes in the City Code.

B. Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop (Lead, Comm. Guy)

Pres. Ramirez asked Comm. Dottie Guy to relate her experience in this matter.

Comm. Guy reported that after waiting at a very dark bus stop at Ft. Miley one evening, she was concerned about security issues there. Pres. Ramírez stated that he has already initiated action in this matter, and discussed the issue of security lighting with the Chief of Maintenance Operations at Ft. Miley. He reports that they are currently undergoing a complete upgrade of electrical services to Ft. Miley, and improvements to the Security Lighting System are included in that plan. He also reports that Comm. Crichlow is a member of the Facility Advisory Board. He says that both he and Comm. Crichlow will continue to follow up with, and monitor the security improvement plan at the facility.

### Agenda Item #4 - . Commission GOALS AND PLANS

President Ramirez reviewed progress on each of the five Commission Goals as referenced in the Minutes of the January meeting, starting with:

Goal #1: ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS COURT IN SAN FRANCISCO

As Lead Commissioner on this issue, Comm. Michael Maffei reported that there has been significant progress since the 1/8 VAC meeting. He reported that on 1/30 there was a significant meeting of a Working Group to initiate a plan to establish a Veterans Court. Attendess included himself, plus Commissioners Ramírez, Towers and Dacumons, Paul Cox representing Swords to Plowshares; Ron Perez, an advocate for rights of incarcerated Veterans, and Ms. Elizabeth Brett of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. The Working Group Planning Meeting led to new meetings with City Judges who are primary in establishment of such a court. Brett met with Chief Superior Court Judge Cynthia Lee, and Mr. Maffei has scheduled meetings with Darament 23 SF Superior Court Judges James Collins and Jeffry Ross. Comm. Maffei reports that successful advocacy for establishment of a City Veterans Court depends on the building of a successful Coalition of 'players' to gain support from the Presiding Judge (Collins). Further reports on these sensitive neotitations will be forthcoming as they transpire.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of February 12, 2013 Page 3 of 4

### Goal #2: INCREASE RESPECT FOR ISSUES OF FEMALE VETERANS

As Lead Commissioner on this issue, Comm. Dottle Guy reported that she is working with various entities to establish the specific needs of women veterans in the Bay Area. These include job training, educational opportunities, and personal security. She is working with Comm. Towers to set up an Online Forum to discuss these issues

### Goal #3: RELOCATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE INTO VETERANS BUILDING

As Lead Commissioner on this issue, Comm. John Gallagher reported that as one of only two Service Officers at the current County Veterans Service Office (at it's cramped quarters, at 27B Van Ness), there is a critical need for both more space and more personnel. He reports that the 2-person staff now handles 18-24 scheduled appointments every day - which is far above a reasonable case-load. Comm. Noetzel asked if he knew what the square footage of office space they had there, and when the lease for the Van Ness Office expires. Comm. Gallagher did not know but said he will research this info and report again next month.

### Goal #4: ESTABLISHMENT OF WAR MEMORIAL VETERAN BUILDING AS "ONE-STOP-SHOP" FOR VETS.

Pres. Ramirez announced that there are continuing negotiations and continuing expressions of interest from a number of agencies, service organizations, patriotic groups and Veterans Groups that are now working with the ALWMC to develop a proposal for the ONE-STOP-SHOP concept that has been suggested.

### Goal #5: "WELCOME HOME" EVENT FOR VETERANS.

Pres. Ramirez started with a recognition that with so little time left before building closure, planning for a large new event was impractical. He then announced that he was modifying this goal by "splitting it" into two distinct events, namely:

- > Hand-off of the "Welcome Home" event to Dr. Nicole, Director of the SF VA Medical Center at Ft. Miley. The President is also inviting Gen. Mike Myatt to confer with Dr. Nicole about combining resources and efforts in development of the Welcome Home Project at a venue outside the War Memorial Veterans Building
- Planning and development of a Veterans & University SUMMITT meeting, at the Veterans Building on Wednesday, the 24th of April. He announced that several Bay Area colleges and Universities have already expressed interest. After describing the event, Comm. Levin made a MOTION that the SFVAC both support and co-sponsor the event. (2nd by Comm. Guy). After a short discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed. The SFVAC is now an official sponsor of the April Veterans/University Summit event.

## Open Discussion Re: Additional 'New Goals and Plans.

Pres. Ramirez then asked if there were any additional suggestions regarding goals for the Commission to consider.

- > Comm. Dacumos spoke at length to express her desire to find new ways to address healing of the broken spirit of returning veterans, not just their bodies. She also spoke about the fact that many female vets still do not feel comfortable in expressing their experiences. She suggested that we might be supportive of the upcoming Wounded Warriors Project, in May, as it has had previous success in advancing the healing process for troubled veterans.
  - > Comm. Caldera suggested consideration of two new goals, namely:
    - 1: Look into acquisition of an OFFICE for the SFVAC, and
    - 2: Look into potential for holding SFVAC Public Hearings on primary veterans issues such as PTSD, etc. President Ramirez replied that the State of California Inter-Agency Council for Veterans is already researching the potential for such an event and suggested that there may be a role for the SFVAC in that regard.

Agenda Item #5 - Old Business. (No discussion at this meeting)

### Agenda Item #6 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Pres. Ramírez asked Sec'y Noetzel to review progress in this area. Sec'y Noetzel said that as per direction at the previous meeting, he had written a DRAFT LETTER for presentation and consideration. After reviewing the draft letter, President Ramírez, Decided to take the draft letter under advisement, for modification pending ongoing negotiations with regard to establishment of a Veterans Court. Pres. Ramírez added that the letter will again be introduced at the March VAC meeting.

While Administrative (rather than Legislative), two notable changes in DOD Policy were recently announced, those being:

- Defense Secretary Panetta announced the extension of spousal benefits to same-sex couples, and
- Female military personnel will no longer be barred from the potential of Combat Assignments.

Agenda Item #7 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Comm. Caldera reported on what he felt were some Irregularities at the 1/10/13 meeting of the Board of Trust of the War Memorial Buildings Complex. After checking with City Attorney Snodgrass his objections were dropped:

Comm. Levin then reported that previous to the full BOT meeting, there was a meeting of the Veterans Building Project Committee, and at that meeting there was broad discussion concerning potential for revenue production via the potential sale of NAMING RIGHTS for all several distinct area of the War Memorial Veterans Building. The Committee voted to forward a RESOLUTION to the full Board of Trust, suggesting a specific list of 'Naming Opportunities', including the main Entry Door at Medister Street.

Comm. Levin said he has met with Board of Trust President Gen. Myatt to object to renaming any portion of the building without full opportunity for Veterans to learn all aspects of the "naming suggestions", as well as opportunity to speak out prior to any such process. He said that Gen. Myatt was in full agreement and would Insure a full and opened process with regard to the naming of any portion of the building. President Ramirez stated that he will reach out to Gen. Myatt for discussions on how the SFVAC might be of assistance in retaining an appropriate level of VETERANS influence in the build.

Comm. LevIn added comments and information regarding Building Closure, reminding all that April 30, 2013 will be the final date that the building will be available for events, meetings or gatherings.

Comm. Levin further announced that the Board of Trustees have authorized lease of alternate Office Space for use by American Legion Posts and District 8 Headquarters. Thus the new Interim Location of the ALWMC and American Legion for the foreseeable future will be at: 205 13<sup>th</sup> Street, suite 3300

He announced that space on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor available each weekday until 7pm, plus two Saturday's per month if needed for planned events. The leased space includes temporary office facilities, plus a cafeteria area that can double as a conference room. Finally, he announced that use of the new facility will be made available to all Veterans related organizations, by application to the American Legion War Memorial Commission, on a 'space available' basis.

## Agenda Item #8 - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- > Comm. Caldera announced that the 2/10 'Sankofa Sunday' event at the Veterans building was a huge success, and thanked all who helped in organization and participation. The event was sponsored by AL Post 315 and the SF Chapter of Veterans for Peace. Pres. Ramirez added his complements for a great event, adding that he was proud to be associated with veterans who still organize and run successful and worthwhile events that benefit the Veterans community of the city.
- > Comm. Wong announced that the annual VFW sponsored STATE WIDE High School Speech Contest was won by Damale Hayes of Mercy High School. Ms. Hayes spoke on the subject: "Is the Constitution Relevant?". She will be representing the State of California in competition for the National Award. There will be an event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, at Mercy High School, to honor this talented student. See Comm. Wong will send out an Email announcement with event details.
- > Comm. Guy announced several events for area veterans, including:
  - > Dragon boat racing at Lake Merritt, and
  - > A demonstration event on how to produce drinking cups from recycled paper, and
- > A "Sister Soliah" event @ UCSF on the 22nd of February.

Comm. Guy will work with Social Media Coordinator Comm. Towers to publicize these events, and provide full details.

- > Pres. Ramirez announced that the next Veterans Town Hall Collaborative meetings will be on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2013, In the War Memorial Veterans Building.
- > Comm. Dacumos announced that the International Military Pilgrimage of Wounded Warriors will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013. More details on this in future meetings.
- > Comm. Towers announced that Gov. Brown recently appointed a new Deputy Sec'y for Veterans Affairs for the State of California Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a Swords to Plowshares staffer, Mr. Kelth Boylan.

### Agenda Item #9 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

Comm. Calder a requested that in this months Moment of Silence Commemoration, we also Include specific honors to the many African American veterans who have died in service to nation. Thus included, our February Moment of Silence, "In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community" concluded the meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT

Minutes of the 2/12/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and after discussion and minor correction, APPROVED at the SFVAC general meeting of 3/12/13

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101

# Tuesday, March 12, 2013 MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

MAR - 7 2013

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)

REVIEW of earlier Meeting MINUTES for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)

a. Review of DRAFT MINUTES for the VAC Meeting of 12 February, 2013

Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

### 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Ramirez to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Call for volunteers to serve as Liaison (i.e. "Lead") or Committee members on various issues.
- B. Vice Presidents Report; V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Progress Report on utilization of Social Media Accounts for SFVAC.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report, including (but not limited to):
  - Correspondence & contacts since precious meeting, including letter of appreciation to Gov. & State Legislators on 2012 laws passed that benefit Veterans and Veterans Community.
  - > Report on March 11, 2013 meeting of Secretaries of City Commissions/Boards.

# 3. NEW Business -

- A. Report and Discussion on progress in establishment of New Mailing Address for SFVAC (Lead, Comm. Burnette)

  Potential Action item.
- B. Report and Discussion on VAC Business Card Format. What Info should be included, and what OPTION CHOICES should be available? Potential Action Item.
- C. General Discussion on potential for expanding audio recording of VAC meetings to include Cable TV in City Network. Potential Action Item
- D. Discussion on City of S.F. "311" System: What would SFVAC like to see included on 311 Website. Potential Action Item
- E. Discussion and Potential Action in support of the Jan Karski exhibit in City Hall as part of Holocaust Remberance Month.
- 4. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Opportunity for discussion and introduction of NEW Goals/plans for SFVAC for 2013, if any,

- 5. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Report on progress of development of a VETERANS COURT for San Francisco. (Lead, Pres. Ramirez, and Comm. Maffel). Potential Action item.
  - B. Report on progress of Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop (Lead, Comm. Guy, Pres Ramirez)
- 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION, Discussion on Local, State Federal Vet Related legislation pending and/or passed,
- 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Lead, Comm. Caldera)

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
   AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the SECOND TUESDAY of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 416 in CITY HALL

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

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Note to Commissioners: If you know beforehand that you will NOT be able to attend the meeting for this AGENDA, please advise Commission Secretary S. Noetzel via Telephone (415.378.8214) or Email: noetzel@pacbell.net

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: March 12, 2013

### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the February Meeting (of the SFVAC was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by Vice-President Jordan Towers at 6:05pm, (Note: Pres. Ramirez was inbound to meeting after a late work schedule). Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

## Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Burnette, Caldera, Gallagher, Guy, Levin, Maffel, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Tramil, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong. (13)

Absent: Commissioners Baldonado, Crichlow, Dacumos, - all excused by President.

Note: Commission strength on this date at 16 active members, 1 (Mayoral appointee) vacancy

Attending Guests: Mr. Roger Dong, Mr. Matthew Gabbe, Mr. Paul Cox, Ms. Maureen Morris, Mr. Zbigniew Stanczyk, Ms. Charlene Phipps, Mr. John Fuller, Mr. Nelson Lum, Mr. Marco Rotting and former Commissioner Dara Wong (Note: City Attornev W. Snoddrass was also in attendance.)

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Maffei (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Guy) Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of February 12, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm.
Levin (2nd Comm. Wilkerson). In discussion, Comm. Levin requested that the account of the meeting of the Board of Trust (at Agenda item 7), include further amplification on a Committee Meeting prior to the BOT meeting. Corrections were noted and a vote to accept the Minutes for the 1/8/13, VAC, as corrected, passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest Matthew Gabbe introduced himself as a Navy veteran who is interested in the proceedings and work of the SFVAC.

Guest Charlene Phipps introduced herself and spoke of here interest in working on issues of Women Veterans. She works with homeless veterans. She has organized a WOMEN'S VET CONNECT on Friday 3/15, at the Vet Center @ 3'd. St. & Harrison. All are invited to visit and/or volunteer. She also announced additional Women's History Month events, and intent to develop a Steering Committee to work on the special issues of Women Vets with children.

Guest Roger Dong of the Veterans Success Center spoke to announce that several vets have recently been placed in new jobs as a result of the work of the Center. He also reported on continuing negotiations to find alternative space for the VSC during the Veterans building shut-down. Their fund-raising efforts are also ongoing.

Guest Paul Cox of the ALWMC spoke to report on the re-opening of the historic Los Angeles Veterans Building after a long retrofit shutdown. He reported that the L.A. City Government mandated that the building must be used primarily for the benefit of VETERANS, as its designated purpose. He pointed out that this is in stark contrast to the current situation regarding the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building, where the City Government is taking no such position.

At this point, seeing that Pres. Ramirez had arrived, V.P. Towers called for a short RECESS in the proceedings for a "gavel transition" that enabled the President to Chair the balance of the meeting.

### Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports (Note: Pres. Ramirez Presiding)

### A. President's Report:

President Ramírez began his report with an announcement of the 5/25/13 SFSU Veterans Graduation Event at the Marines Memorial Building. He suggested the item be included on April meeting Agenda for potential Endorsement.

Pres. Ramirez also introduced the idea for a potential change in the Parade Route for the Veterans Day Parade in November, and suggested further discussion as a future meeting Agenda Item.

### B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P., Towers reported on progress made in updating the SFVAC Website to include both FaceBook and Twitter pages. These new Social Media pages include volumes of information on services for veterans and as Social Media Coordinator for the SFVAC he is continually adding new information. Commissioners are urged to view the new website Social Media pages.

### C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Noetzel reported on recent Commission Correspondence including:

 A 2/22/13 letter from Pres. Ramirez to City Government that indicates Commission Endorsement for three new California Laws that support the Veterans Community.  A 3/12/13 letter from President Ramirez to ALWMC Chair Nelson Lum expressing interest in allocation of space (for the SFVAC) in planning for Space Usage in the WMVB on completion of building retrofit.

Sec'y Noetzel also reported on an SF Chronicle article about the opening of a new facility for housing of homeless veterans in the Mission District of the city. He expressed concern that unlike previous ceremonies for such facility openings, no one on the Commission was appraised of this event, or of the fact that new housing for Veterans was opened in the Mission.

Finally, Secretary Noetzel reported on a conference of Secretaries of City Commissions that he attended on 3/11. He received information on 2 specific questions that he raised, those being:

- What is City Policy on use of Social Media Accounts in connection with Commission business? (Answer: There is no current policy as yet however a city Committee is studying this issue and will have recommendations in near future).
  - When is the next scheduled training for new Commissioners, on Ethics and Transparency rules? (Answer: There is no training session planned for 2013 however administration is providing a link to enable Commissioners to download and view the past Training Session).

## Agenda item 3. - NEW Business

- A. Report and Discussion on progress in establishment of New Mailing Address for SFVAC.
  - Sec'y Noetzel reported t hat this Issue Is now moot as a new official Mailing Address for the Commission, was recently established; that being: SFVAC Room 53, San Francisco City Hall,

1 Dr. Carl B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

- He also reported that new mailing envelopes have been ordered, and new letterhead stationary is already available.
- B. Report and Discussion on VAC Business Card Format, Potential Action Item. Comm. Burnette announced that he would be contacting individual Commissioners to determine what address and other information they want printed on VAC Business cards. After some discussion. Chair ruled that
- C. General Discussion on potential for expanding audio recording of VAC meetings. Potential Action Item. After considerable discussion on the pros and cons of both audio and video broadcast of SFVAC proceedings on city of S.F. Broadcast stations, Comm. Caldera made a MOTION that we forward a request (to City Broadcasting authority), to broadcast AUDIO of our meetings, so long as it is cost-free. (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Burnette. A vote was taken, and the Motion falled. No further action on this issue.
- D. Discussion on City of S.F. "311" System: Potential Action Item. President Ramirez delegated to Comm. Towers, the task of researching what the SFVAC would like to see included on 311 Website, and working toward that goal with appropriate City Administrators.
- E. Discussion and Potential Action in support of the JAN KARSKI EXHIBIT in City Hall as part of Holocaust Rembrance Month. Guests J. Fuller, Z. Stanczyk, and Ms. Maureen Morris provided an comprehensive Power Point Presentation on both the history and life of Mr. Karski as well as the Exhibit, which was last shown in the lobby of the U.N. Building in NYC. Guests added valuable commentary to their Video-Screen presentation, and answered questions about the Exhibit.

On conclusion of the 10-minute presentation, Comm. Levin asked the Exhibit promoters why they had not first approached the leaders of the Jewish Community Relations Council and more directly, the City Officials who schedule exhibits in the City Hall Rotunda and adjoining rooms (i.e. Events Director Elsie McAteer). Mr. Fuller acknowledged that other avenues might have been explored but he found Mr. Paul Cox of the ALWMC to be receptive. Comm. Caldera commented that the Exhibit presentation lacked any mention of the inclusion of homosexuals who were also victimized in the Holocaust. Exhibit presenters took note and said they would look into inclusion.

Comm. Noetzel then made a MOTION requesting that having viewed the presentation, the SFVAC endorses the installation of the KARSKI EXHIBIT in City Hall, and supports an ADVICE LETTER to City Government, to that effect. (2<sup>nd</sup>. Comm. Guy). After some discussion, a VOTE was taken and the Motion was passed with all Yea's save one abstention. (Comm. Burnette). The president will write an Advice Letter to City Government to support the installation of the KARSKI EXHIBIT.

Agenda Item #4 - .Commission GOALS AND PLANS President Ramirez asked Lead Commissioners to Report.

## Commission Goal #1 - i.e. Establishment of a VETERANS COURT in San Francisco.

Lead Comm. Michael Maffel happily reported a major success in this effort, with an announcement that the San Francisco Superior Court has agreed to open a VETERANS COURT, starting in April! Comm. Maffel thanked all who worked to make this happen, and promised to send out an Email Announcement of the very first Court Date of the S.F. Veterans Court (when scheduled) so that all Commissioners have opportunity to attend.

Guest Nelson Lum, Chairman of the American Legion War Memorial Commission rose to request improved communication between the SFVAC and the American Legion (via the ALWMC), particularly on stantive issues such as the Veterans Court, where the Legion may be able to offer additional support and expertise. President Ramirez asked Secretary Noetzel to insure that the ALWMC be included on the mailing list to insure that they are informed of all of the issues and activities of the SFVAC. The Secretary agreed to do so.

### Commission Goal #2 - i.e. Increase Respect for Issues of Women Veterans.

Lead Comm. Guy reported that she will be attending the WOMEN'S VET CONNECT event on Friday 3/15, (as described earlier by guest Ms. Charlene Phipps). She is also continuing work with other organizations in this area, and that information will be available on the FaceBook and Twitter pages of the SFVAC website.

### Commission Goal #3 - i.e. Relocation of COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE into the Veterans Building.

Lead Comm. John Gallagher reported that their current "cramped quarters" at 27B Van Ness included a 4-chair entry lobby, (approx. 12.5' x 8'), and two interview rooms (approx. 8' x 9' each), and a small files storage room for a total of approx. 300 square feet of total operating space. Comm. Gallagher says that this is already inadequate for their current staffing and a workload of 400-600 Veteran visitors per month, but it will be even more crowded if additional requested staff is added. Future space requirement includes a lobby area with seating for 8 – 10 veterans, plus a minimum of three Interview rooms of adequate size, plus adequate storage area. Pres. Ramirez asked if the CVSO has ever expressed an interest in acquisition of office space within the renovated War Memorial Veterans Building. Comm. Levin, speaking as the official County Veterans Service Officer said that no such Letter of interest has been generated. Pres. Ramirez asked him if he would write such the Letter of interest (addressed to the Space Allocation Officer of the ALWMC), and include within it the full space requirements sought by the CVSO. Comm. Levin, or write the Letter of Interest.

## Commission Goal #4 - i.e. Progress toward Establishment of the War Memorial Veterans Building as a ONE-STOP-SHOP.

President Ramirez reported that the MARCH Veterans Town Hall/Collaborative will meet as usual on the last Wednesday of the month (i.e. 27 March). He also announced that the LAST such meeting (prior to building closure) will be Wednesday the 24th of April. This one will be an day-long event as it will also include a UNIVERSITY VETERANS SUMMITT. Pres. Ramirez said he already has commitments from several colleges and Universities, and his hope is that this will be a fitting Grand Finale event before the WMVB is closed for remodel.

Pres. Ramirez asked if any Commissioners had any new or additional GOALS for the Commission to consider. Comm. Caldera reported that he has been working with the S.F. Dept. of Public Health with regard to a potential PUBLIC HEARING on the issue of PTSD within the Veterans Community. Pres. Ramirez asked Comm. Caldera if he would work 'off-line' with him on this potential. Comm. Towers suggested that any consideration of a PUBLIC HEARING requires more focus followed by a huge planning effort, and that if such Public Hearings were set into actual Planning Stage, other issues (such as Veterans Homelessness and the massive Veterans Caliers backloy) might also be included on any Hearings Agenda.

### Agenda Item #5 - Old Business.

A. Malling Address for SFVAC (Covered at Item 3A, above).

B. VETERANS COURT for San Francisco. (Covered at Agenda Item #4, above)

C. Report on Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop (Comm. Guy, Lead). Comm. Guy reports that she will re-inspect the area on another after-dark visit and report on improvement, if any. As Pres. RamIrez works there he noted that any unsafe condition can also be reported to the Advisory Board.

### Agenda Item #6 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION

(Covered in Secretary's Report at item 2C, a, above).

### Agenda Item #7 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

As Comm. Nelson Lum (Chair of ALWMC) was still present, Pres. Ramirez asked him to comment directly. Comm. Lum announced that 4/30/13 will be the last date for events in the WMVB, and 5/1 thru 5/16 will be "move out" dates, and 5/17 will be the deadline for removal of all tenant property. After that anything remaining in the building is subject to be placed into trash bins.

He further stated that he had a meeting scheduled next week, with BOT Chair, Gen. Myatt, and he was hopeful about ongoing negotiations concerning retention of building space for Veterans use after the retrofit. He said he currently has only 3 Letters of Interest or Letters of Intent from veteran's related groups/agencies that want to reserve space in the building after retrofit, but he is seeking more.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 12, 2013 Page 4 of 4

Agenda Item #8 - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pres. Ramirez announced that the next Veterans Town Hall Collaborative meetings will be on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2013, in the War Memorial Veterans Building.
- He also announced that the APRIL Town Hall Collaborative meetings (and University Summit) will be on Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. (See Info on VAC Website FaceBook page).
- Comm. Guy announced that on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013, in room 207 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, in collaboration with the ALWMC, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE will host the Second Annual VETERANS FIX-IT EVENT. For full information and registration details, see EVENT FLYER on the FaceBook Page of the SFVAC Website.
- Comm. Weeby announced that she is also going to Washington D.C. (in APRIL) to participate in lobbying efforts to pass legislation designed to fight Sexual Trauma within the military.
- Comm. Guy announced that she is going to Washington D.C. to participate in the IAVA event called: Storm the Hill In DC next week. She will be working with numbers of "Post 911" vets who will lobby federal government for action to reduce the horrendous VA backlog, and other Veterans related Issues.
- Comm. Dacumos announced that the International Military Pilgrimage of Wounded Warriors will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. 2013. More details on this in future meetings.
- Comm. R. Wong announced that the California winner of the national VFW sponsored High School Speech Contest, Ms. Danlelle Hayes, of Mercy High School in San Francisco, has recently gone on to WiN the NATIONAL CONTEST! Congratulations to Danielle on her Essay: "Is the Constitution Still Relevant?". Essay can be viewed on VFW website.

Agenda Item #9 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community concluded the meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 8:09pm

Minutes of the 3/12/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the SFVAC Meeting of 4/9/13.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101

# Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of 12 February, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

# 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Ramirez to report.
  - B. Vice Presidents Report; V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
    - > Progress Report on update of Social Media pages on SFVAC Website.
  - C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on correspondence/communications

## 3. NEW Business

A. Potential Action Item: Discussion and potential endorsement of <u>5/25/13 event at the Marines Memorial building to honor the San Francisco State University Veterans Graduation.</u> (Pres. Ramírez, Lead)

### 4. Commission GOALS AND PLANS

Beview and discussion of NEW PROGRESS on announced Goals/plans for SEVAC for 2013.

- 5. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Report and Discussion on progress on acquisition of new BUSINESS CARDS for SFVAC (Comm. Burnette, Lead)
  - B. Report on progress of the new VETERANS COURT for San Francisco. (Comm. Maffel, Lead)
  - C. Report on progress of Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop (Comm. Guy, Lead)
- 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION. Discussion on Local. State Federal Vet Related legislation pending and/or passed.

### 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Comm. Caldera, Lead)

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

### 10. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

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This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

## PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public records are covered under that State of California Brown Act, as well as the SUNSHINE ORDINANCE of the City of San Francisco. These acts insure that deliberations of City Business are conducted "before the people", and that City operations are open to the people's review.

For information on your rights under the Sunshine ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Mr. Chris RUSTON, Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at telephone # 415-554-7724.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the SECOND TUESDAY of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 416 in CITY HALL

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

# DISABILITY ACCESS

CITY HALL of San Francisco is wheelchair accessible via all entrances. There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

Note to Commissioners: If you know beforehand that you will NOT be able to attend the meeting for this AGENDA, please advise Commission Secretary S. Noetzel via Telephone (415.378.8214) or Email: noetzel@pacbell.net

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: April 9, 2013

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the February Meeting (of the SFVAC was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by Vice-President Jordan Towers at 6:05pm, (Note: Pres. Ramirez was inbound to meeting after a late work schedule). Meeting started with the traditional Piedee of Alledainec.

#### Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Levin, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Tramil, Weeby, Wilkerson, (13)

Absent: Commissioners Crichlow, Maffel, Wong - all excused by President.

Note: Commission strength on this date at 16 active members, 1 (Mayoral appointee) vacancy

Attending Guests: Former Commissioner Dara Wong (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was not in attendance.)

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Weeby) Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of March 12, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm. Caldera (2nd Comm. Dacumos). Without further discussion a vote to accept the Minutes for the 3/12/13, VAC Meeting, as written, passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT No comments offered.

# Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

A. President's Report; (Note: Pres. Ramirez' report given after return as Meeting Chair)

President Ramirez requested that issues suggested as potential Agenda Items will be reviewed (by him) for their applicability to the interests of the Veterans of San Francisco. He further stated that henceforth all letters signed by him (for the Commission) would be on issues specifically related to the interests of the Veteran community of San Francisco. He further stated that all requests for Meeting Agenda Items would be considered on the basis of their relevance to the interests of the Veterans of the City of San Francisco.

### B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P. Towers suggested that instead of the Commission Secretary being listed on the SFVAC Website as the sole contact port for the Commission, some of the other Commissioners might like to provide their own contact information. He requested that if other Commissioners would like their contact into to be listed, they should contact him.

V.P. Towers also offered additional remarks to encourage Commissioners to insure that any personal correspondence written to the Mayor or other City officials, be clearly identified as the personal views of the author, and in no way representing the views of the SFVAC.

## C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Noetzel reported on recent Commission Correspondence including:

- A 3/12/13 Letter of Interest from Pres. Ramirez to Mr. Nelson Lum, Chairman of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, Indicating that the SFVAC looks forward to returning to appropriate space within the War Memorial Veterans Building, on completion of the retrofit construction.
- A 3/13/13 Advice Letter to the Mayor & BOS indicating SFVAC endorsement of a request (made to this Commission) for installation of the JAN KARSKI EXHIBIT, an Action Item approved by this Commission at its meeting of 3/12/13.
- A 3/14/13 Follow up Letter from Commission Secretary in response to inquiry from the Office of the Mayor, on how to contact representatives of the Karski Exhibit.

Secretary Noetzel commented that there has essentially been NO RESPONSE to the Commission, in reply to ANY of the Advice Letters that we have sent to City Government over the past two years, and suggested that this record on nonresponse might be an appropriate Agenda Item for further examination at a future meeting.

Secretary Noetzel concluded his report by informing the Commission that he will soon be sending to Commissioners a group Email that speaks to the requirement for all City Commissioners to complete formal ETHICS TRAINING with respect to the Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinances of the City. The email will explain how Commissioners who have not yet taken this training, may do so "online" and thereby fulfill their obligation in this regard.

Comm. Baldonado suggested establishment of a "follow up" system to urge city officials to respond to at least the most important or urgent Advice Letters.

Secretary's Report - continued

Comm. Levin suggested that the issue of non-response to our Advice Letters is a valid subject for meetings with representatives from the office of the Mayor, and the President of the BOS.

Comm. Burnette (speaking from his experience as an intern in the office of the President of the SF BOS), suggested that at present, an EMAIL message has a greater chance to be read and responded to, than an old fashioned "snail mail" letter.

At this point, seeing that Pres. Ramirez had arrived, V.P. Towers called for a short RECESS in the proceedings for a "gavel transition" that enabled the President to Chair the balance of the meeting.

## Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business

A. Potential Action Item: Discussion and potential endorsement of 5/25/13 event at the Marines Memorial building to honor the San Francisco State University Veterans Graduation.

Pres. Ramirez reported that the subject event was now set and he requested endorsement of the event by the Commission. Comm. Noetzel made a Motion to Endorse (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Levin). During discussion the question was raised as to what exactly did an "endorsement" from the SFVAC entil. President Ramirez appointed Commissioners Towers and Weeby to research this question, and report their findings at the MAY 2013 VAC Meeting. They agreed to do so. A VOTE was then held on the Motion. It carried unanimously. The 5/25 SFSU event is officially endorsed by the SFVAC and the invitation letter (along with a note indicating such endorsement) will be posted on our website.

### Agenda item 4 - Commission GOALS AND PLANS

- Pres. RamIrez reported that there is now a posted VACANCY notice for the position of County Veterans Service Officer (San Francisco). It includes a Veterans Preference element.
- Comm. Gallagher reported that the same office is now adding a permanent administrative staff position, and a recent fire resulted in an office remodel.
- Comm. Guy reported on Women's Veteran issues, stating that she will be attending a Summit on Women's Military Service Issues in Washington D.C., April 16-18, and that she will be working in San Francisco after that. She will report on these activities at next meeting.

### Agenda Item 5 - Old Business

- A. Acquisition of new BUSINESS CARDS for SFVAC. Comm. Burnette, Lead, reported that new business cards have been ordered for all Commissioners who provided him with info for their cards. He will distribute them when printed.
- B. Report on progress of the new VETERANS COURT. Comm. Maffel, (Lead) was unable to attend the meeting due to pressing work assignments, however Pres. Ramírez reported that the first actual sessions of the new City of San Francisco Veterans Court have indeed been in session and at least 3 cases were recently adjudicated. There is another Veterans Court Session scheduled for tomorrow (4/10/13) at the court location: 575 Polk St.
- C. Security lighting at Ft. Miley. Comm. Guy, Lead, was unable to make further progress in researching this item this month. She will report again in the future. Comm. Wilkerson also noted that additional STREET SIGNS are needed direct divers to the Ft. Miley VA facilities. Pres. Ramirez suggested that these items should be on the next Agenda.

### Agenda Item 6 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

- Comm. Towers said that he had recently Emailed Commissioners with into on TWO newly Introduced CA bills regarding Veterans Housing. (AB639 and SB391) He reports that other CA cities are already endorsing these bills, which seek to utilize some 5.5 billion dollars in available federal funds, for Veterans housing.
- Pres. Ramirez reported on two additional CA bills (AB614 and AB258) The latter seeks to authorize a change in the primary question asked of all CA clients for public services from: "are you a Veteran", to the more definitive: "Have you ever served in the US Armed Forces?" This change will help establish services for many of the additional veterans.
- Comm. Baldonado reported that Rep. Jackie Speier will re-introduce the Fairness to Filipino Veterans Act once again in the new Congress. He requested that the Commission consider support for this Bill as we have in the past.
- Comm. Weeby reported that she was in Washington DC recently, to lobby for a new law which will seek to mandate the reduction/elimination of the existing massive backlog on applications for VA services for veterans.

Agenda Item 7 - War Memorial Veterans Building

Comm. Caldera reported on recent developments. He distributed copies of a 7-page document that included the AGENDA for the War Memorial Board of Trustees meeting of 3/14/13, which provided extensive detail on elements of the remodel plans for the War Memorial Veterans Building, Another document was the AGENDA for the 4/11/13 meeting of the BOT. He pointed out that it includes a Closed Session wherein the BOT will discuss the lawsuit filed against them by the City of S.F. Law Library.

Agenda Item 8 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook, icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688

- Comm. Burnette announced that on Thurs, 4/11/13 there is a seminar in the Veterans Success Center on Jobs for Veterans.
- Comm. Caldera announced that on 4/23/13. Veterans for Peace is hosting a 'Farewell for Now' Pot-Luck party in room 223 of the WMB, starting at 7pm. All are invited
- Comm. Guy announced that on Friday the 19th of April, 2013, in room 207 of the War Memorial Veterans Building, in collaboration with the ALWMC. Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE will host the Second Annual VETERANS FIX-IT EVENT. For full information and registration details, see EVENT FLYER on the FaceBook Page of the SFVAC Website.
- Comm. Guy announced that on 4/23/13 there is a seminar in the WMB on Women in Combat.
- President Ramirez announced that the APRIL Town Hall Collaborative meetings (and University Summit) will be on Wednesday, the 24th of April 2013, (See info on VAC Website FaceBook page).
- Comm. Dacumos announced that on 5/6/13, she and other volunteer yets will be once again visiting the 'Veterans pod' a group of approx.. 30 veterans incarcerated at the San Bruno jail. They will be providing information on services available, including advice on use of the new San Francisco Veterans Court.
- Comm, Levin announced the 145<sup>th</sup> Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony to commemorate the loss of service men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation will take place on Monday the 27th of May, 3013, with proceedings starting at 10:30am. See VAC Website (cited above) for further info.
- Comm. Burnette announced that the BAY AREA ASSOC OF DISABLED SAILORS invites participants to join them on Sundays at Pier 40, at 10am, for sailing expeditions.

Agenda Item #9 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community. Also included for this meeting: Memorial remembrance of US Navy Commander Robert E. Landau, friend and supporter of the Veterans Community in San Francisco, who passed on 2/26 at age 92. The Moment of Silence concluded the meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 8:29pm

Minutes of the 4/9/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the SFVAC Meeting of 5/14/13.

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101

# Tuesday, May 14, 2013, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

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- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of April 9, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).
- 2. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report; President Ramirez to report.
  - B. Vice Presidents Report: V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
    - > Progress Report on update of Social Media pages on SFVAC Website.
  - C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications
- **NEW Business** 
  - A. Presentation, discussion and potential action on potential VAC Endorsement of the COMING HOME PROJECT, as introduced by invited Commission quest Dr. Joe Bobrow.
  - B. Discussion and potential action on the subject of City of S.F. policy on "Buy Back" of Active Duty Service Time. to add to Retirement credit for City Employees. (Comm. Tramil to present).
  - C. Comm. Towers and Comm. Weeby to report on Joint efforts to research definitions and implications of Commission "Support" and "Endorsements"
- 4. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Report and Discussion on progress on acquisition of new BUSINESS CARDS for SFVAC (Comm. Burnette, Lead)
  - B. Report on proceedings of the new VETERANS COURT for San Francisco, (Comm. Maffel, Lead)
  - C. Report on issues of needed improvements at Ft. Milev:
    - > Progress of Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop (Comm. Guy. Lead)
    - > Improvement of directional STREET SIGNAGE (Comm. Wilkerson, Lead)

### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY to report on first Legislation Committee Meeting.

### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Comm. Caldera, Lead)

- 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

### 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214



# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: May 14, 2013

### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum, the February Meeting (of the SFVAC was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by Pres. Ramirez at 6:03pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Roll Ca

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Baldonado, Caldera, Gallagher, Guy, LevIn, Maffel, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Tramil. Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (13)

Absent: Commissioner Burnette – unexcused. Also, Comm. Crichlow (excused, medical) & Comm. Dacumos (excused, travel). Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was not in attendance.

Note: Commission strength on this date at 16 active members, 1 (Mayoral appointee) vacancy

Attending Guests: Former Commissioner Dara Wong, Mr. J. P. White, Mr. Ellison Horne, Ms. Latonia Dixon, Dennis & Sarah Kohler, Mr. Andrew Lake, Mr. Ted Huang, Ms. Sheena Raji, and Dr. Joseph Bobrow.

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado) Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of April 9, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm. Caldera (2nd Comm. Guy). Without further discussion a vote to accept the Minutes for the 4/9/13, VAC Meeting, as written, passed upanimously.

### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dennis Koller, Executive director of the new Bethlehem Shipyards Museum introduced the project. It will start as a Mobile Museum on a truck-bed. The mobile unit will go to schools for interactive training to teach swimming, boating and other martime activities. Mr. Koller noted that about 70% of ships built there were commissioned for military or Navy use, and the primary effort is to preserves the history of the shipyard and its labor history from inception to 1982 closing. The museum board is currently seeking funding for expansion and permanent location. President Ramirez suggested that Director Koller might seek to get SFVAC endorsement for the Shipvard Museum by requesting an Agenda presentation at a future VAC meeting.

Mr. Ellison Horne. Executive Director of the Veterans Media Center, (now in transition to the Veterans Community Media Center) spoke to announce that they have recently signed a lease for the use of the Former Public Access Media Center at 1720 Market St. In S.F. He closed by stating that he hopes to make a formal presentation about the Media Center as an Agenda Item on a future VAC meeting.

Mr. JIm White introduced himself as a city-resident veteran. He is interested in working with veterans to assist in Veterans
Transition from military to Civilian life. He's working will an all-volunteer force to alleviate transition difficulties. He closed by
submitting copies of a Think-Tank paper on Transition, that he helped co-author.

Mr. Ted Huang (an employee of Webcore Construction) spoke to encourage the development of hiring Veterans in the various components of the Construction industry in the bay area. He wants to work to establish a more cohesive hiring effort within the union agencies and sub-contractor components of the construction industry. He spoke in favor of establishment of a Comprehensive Council to bring together the Unions and Employers and all elements of this primary industry, to facilitate the hiring of veterans.

### Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

### A. President's Report:

President Ramírez reported that he is interested in establishing some sort of Commission Council, that would bring together many of the Bay Area entities and organizations that work to find employment and careers for area veterans. He reports that while may organizations work independently, there is a need of one unified 'voice' to help job-seeking vets, and that it could be modeled after the successful Orange County Collaborative Council that currently works to pull all hiring entities together, in Southern California.

## B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Towers reported that the Committee on Veterans Legislation met and selected a few items for the SFVAC to work on, including efforts to insure more hiring of area veterans. He Also reported that the SFVAC Social Media pages have been further updated to include many events of interest to veterans.

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### C. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Noetzel reported on recent Commission Correspondence including:

- A 5/14 Email from Dr. Emily Morass, Executive Director of the San Francisco Department of the Status of Women (a City Agency). The Email extends an Invitation to the SEVAC to participate in a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, in City Hall, room 408 starting at 5pm on Wed. the 22nd of May. After some discussion. President Ramirez directed the Chair of the Committee on Female Veterans Issues. Comm. Dottle Guy, to follow up on this invitation, and insure our participation.
- Also, Comm. Dacumos forwarded a copy of a 4/1 letter from BEVAN DUETY. Director of San Francisco's PROJECT HOPE (Housing, Opportunity, Partnership and Engagement) to the S.F. Interfalth Council. In it Dir. Dufty introduces a Training Program called "Responding to the Homeless on our Doorsteps", to be held at St. Mary's Cathedral, In the 16th of May, from 10am to 11:30am, Copies of the letter were distributed to interested Commission members.

### Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business

# A. COMING HOME PROJECT.

Commission guest Dr. Joe Bobrow made a presentation, and a request for discussion and potential VAC Endorsement of the COMING HOME PROJECT (as an Agenda 'potential Action' item. Specifically, he requests the SEVAC to advocate with the leadership of the San Francisco Department of Recreation & Parks, (for them) to DONATE the Camp Mather facility for a weekend RETREAT for returning military personnel during this summer. He reminded the Commission that his Project is a Non-profit, all volunteer effort to alleviate the 'unseen injuries' of returning yets. He reported that he has already gone through all proper channels to request such a donation of the park. with no success whatsoever. Similarly, when Comm. Burnette was assigned the task of researching best ways to succeed with this request, there was no follow-through. After some discussion, Comm. Maffel made a Motion that he draft a letter (for signature by Pres. Ramirez) to ask the Director of SF Rec/Park to Intervene in this matter and approve the cost-free retreat as a benefit to our returning military personnel, (2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Noetzel). After some discussion, a vote was held and it passed unanimously. The letter will be written by Comm. Maffel.

B. City Policy on Inclusion of Active Duty Service Time (for Retirement Credit). Comm. Tramil reported on her investigation into questions she was asked to research in the previous VAC meeting. Specifically, she was told that current City Policy provides Military Service time to be added to City

Employee Service time ONLY in instances where the employee is called to Active Duty AFTER already established employment with the City. Furthermore, when she inquired as to HOW MANY City Employee Veterans fell into this category, or for that matter.

how many of the city employees actually held status as Veterans. She was told that there were no statistics kept on the former question, and that the answer to the second question was confidential in nature. Comm. Towers then suggested that the answers to these questions might be produced (by appropriate City

Administrators) if the request was formally made by this Commission. President Ramirez suggested that some of the collected CENSUS DATA might be of help here. After some discussion. the matter was TABLED for further research by Interested Commissioners.

C. Definitions and implications of Commission "Endorsement", and "Support"

Comm. Weeby reported that she and Comm. Towers had met, researched, and discussed these terms as tasked by the President. She reported that she and Comm. Towers are working on authoring new TEXT. (to be added to the VAC website) that describes exactly what is meant by a formal ('voted on') Endorsement by the Commission. The intent is to define formal VAC Endorsement (for an issue or an event) as something that the Commission has considered In full, and VOTED in favor of the subject Event, Issue, or subject, and that Formal Commission Endorsement may or may not include issue of a letter or document (from the Commission) to amplify on said Endorsement. President Ramirez then added comments regarding the term "SUPPORTED" by the Commission (as distinguished from Endorsement). He asked that this term should be included in the Website Statement, as a degree of support that is a general consensus of the Commission, but has not been voted on at the formal Endorsement level. He asked that Commissioners Weeby and Towers report on this issue again, when they have completed the Website Addition Text.

### Agenda Item 4 - Old Business

A. BUSINESS CARDS for SFVAC. Comm. Burnette, Lead, was absent and has been out of communication for some weeks now. Sec'v Noetzel reported that he received a call from Lynn Khaw. Executive Assistant to the City Administrator. She said that the card order was delayed as she was unable to reach Commissioner Burnette to proof-Read the cards prior to printing. Noetzel made a trip to her office and accomplished the proof-reading task, correcting all imperfections. The card order is now at the printer, with expedited service.

Agenda Item 4 - Old Business (CONTINUED)

- B. San Francisco VETERANS COURT. Comm. Maffel, provided a full report on the growing success of the new City Veterans Court, now in session every Wednesday at 2pm. The court takes on cases regarding offenses by defendants who have verified VETERAN status, including thefts, misdemeanors, etc. It continues to pick up interest and an Increase in cases every month, now in excess of 20 per week. Comm. Maffel explained that even though it is at present limited to crime committed in specific High-crime areas and does not yet include felony cases, the long established Veterans Court of Santa Clara provides a good model for the new court to follow. Court referrals for its veteran defendants includes counseling and many other social services, as explained on the promotional flevers he distributed
- C. Needed Lighting improvements at Ft. Miley. Lead Commissioner Guy reported that she has not been able to return to the facility after dark, to re-examine the current lighting deficiencies. President Ramirez said that there is a new Facility MaIntenance Chief, now on duty at ft. Miley. He will provide contact information for Comm. Guy to follow up with in the future. The issue of improved SIGNAGE to direct people to the VA Medical center, was briefly discussed. These Issues were then TABLED for a revisit at a future meeting, another work by individual Commissioners.

Agenda Item 5 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY reported on the first formal meeting of the VAC Veterans Issue Legislation Committee. On Monday evening, the 6" of May, Comm. Weeby, as Chair, led a duly posted Public Meeting met at Peets Café, at 601 Van Ness. Attendees included Commissioner's Towers, Noetzel, and Maffel. Comm. Weeby reported that the basis of the potential Legislation issues were extracted from a marvelous new 58-page publication produced by IAVA (Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America), titled "3013 Pollcy Agenda (for the) New "Greatest Generation". The document sets forth legislative and other Action Plans in eight distinct areas, The Committee selected the EMPLOYMENT issue as a primary one to work on, including seven (7) separate areas that need attention and support from the SFVAC. Commissioner Weeby and other Committee members will report at future VAC meetings.

Commissioner Raymond Wong also reported on Calif Senate Bill SB725 which addresses Preservation of Veterans Continuing use of building facilities when public Veterans Buildings and facilities are shut down for building remodel/retroft. The bill would securely protect such veteran's rights. He urged that the VAC support this important legislation.

### Agenda Item 6 - War Memorial Veterans Building

Comm. Caldera reported on recent developments, including a 4/11/13 S.F. War Memorial Board of Trustees CLOSED SESSION meeting. He distributed copies of the Agenda for that meeting, and stated that he and several interested parties, including ALWMC Chair Nelson Lum requested a report on Closed Session proceedings. With minimal discussion, the BOT voted NOT to disclose any Information from Closed Session.

Agenda Item 7 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688

- Comm. LevIn announced the 145<sup>th</sup> Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony to commemorate the loss of service men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation will take place on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, 3013, with proceedings starting at 10:30am. See VAC Website (cited above) for further into
- Pres. Ramirez announced that his series of monthly Town Hall Collaborative Meetings will CONTINUE at a new location, after closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building. Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month, from 9am -11am, and 3pm -5pm, at the Phillip Burton Federal Building, at 450 Golden Gate Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> fl.

Agenda Item #8 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community. The Moment of Silence concluded the meeting.

Agenda Item #9 - AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 723pm

Minutes of the 5/14/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel and APPROVED (as submitted) at the SFVAC Meeting of 6/11/13.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco
Mailing Address: War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101

# Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 6:00pm

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA
President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of April 9, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).
- 2. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report: President Ramirez to report.
  - B. Vice Presidents Report; V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
    - > Progress Report on update of Social Media pages on SFVAC Website.
  - C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications
- 3. NEW Business (None Scheduled)
- 4. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Discussion and potential action on the subject of City of S.F. policy on "Buy Back" of Active Duty Service Time, to add to Retirement credit for City Employees. (Comm. Tramil to present).
    - B, Report on proceedings of the new VETERANS COURT for San Francisco. (Comm. Maffei, Lead)
    - C. Report on issues of needed improvements at Ft. Miley:
      - > Progress of Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop (Comm. Guy, Lead)
      - > Improvement of directional STREET SIGNAGE (Comm. Wilkerson, Lead)

### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY to report on further developments within the Legislation Committee.

## 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Comm. Caldera, Lead)

- 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

### 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzel@pacbell.net or telephone 415-378-8214

06-06-13P01:30 PCVD

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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

# PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public records are covered under that State of California Brown Act, as well as the SUNSHINE ORDINANCE of the City of San Francisco. These acts insure that deliberations of City Business are conducted "before the people", and that City operations are open to the people's review.

For information on your rights under the Sunshine ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Mr. Chris RUSTON, Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at telephone # 415-554-7724.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the SECOND TUESDAY of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 416 in CITY HALL

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

# DISABILITY ACCESS

CITY HALL of San Francisco is wheelchair accessible via all entrances. There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

Note to Commissioners: If you know beforehand that you will NOT be able to attend the meeting for this AGENDA, please advise Commission Secretary S. Noetzel via Telephone (415.378.8214) or Email: noetzelder@gmail.com

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: June 11, 2013

### Call to Order

Having achieved a bare-minimum Quorum at 6:15pm (see Roll Call, below), the June Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Eduardo Ramirez at 6:15pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of

### Boll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Burnette, Caldera, Guy, Maffel, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wong (9) Absent and excused by President: Commissioners Baldonado (illness), Dacumos (illness), Levin, (Personal leave) Absent - UN-EXCUSED: Commissioners Crichlow, Gallagher, Tramil, Wilkerson

Note: Commission strength on this date at 16 active members, 1 (Mayoral appointed) vacancy

Attending Guests: Former Commissioner Dara Wong, Phoebe Maffei, Stephen Pendas, (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.)

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Guy (2nd, Comm. Towers). In discussion, Comm. Caldera raised question as to why his two suggested Agenda Items were not included on current Agenda, noting, for the record, that this was the first time that he had ever requested an Agenda Item. Pres. Ramirez replied that it is his prerogative, as President, to accept of deny Agenda requests, and he remains opposed to discussion of the 2 submitted items. After further objections by Comm. Caldera, Sec'v Noetzel raised a larger question about inclusion of Commissioners Agenda Requests. After further discussion and advice by City Attorney, an agreement was reached to fully explore the procedures and policy around inclusion of Commissioner Requested Agenda Items, at the next VAC meeting. With that, the guestion was called and the current Agenda, was approved as published.

### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of May 14, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm. Maffel (2nd Comm. Guy). Without further discussion a vote to accept the Minutes for the 5/14/13, VAC Meeting, as written, passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Stephen Pendas addressed the Commission to introduce his Sunday Salling Program. His non-profit venture (operating out of Pier 40 every Sunday), involves bringing the experience of open water sailing to all however a special Invitation is extended to the Veterans Community of San Francisco, Including disabled veterans.

## Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports

### A. President's Report:

President Ramirez addressed a concern that the City Operated '311' (non-emergency) information system was not very helpful for Veterans requesting information. He asked Commissioner Towers, in his capacity of Commission Coordinator of Social Media to look into the 311 website and phone information - to see if SEVAC can help with expansion of relevant information about services for area veterans

### B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P. Towers reiterated that his role in the denial of Agenda items, as submitted by Comm. Caldera, was not personal, and encouraged him to continue to advocate for his issues, and future Agenda submittals.

### C. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Noetzel reported on recent Commission Correspondence including:

1. A letter from the SF War Memorial Commission announcing FREE SF Opera tickets for Veterans (and OCUMENTS TO guest) from S.F. Opera. Tix are for two different operas, on evenings of 7/1 and 7/3. Contact SFWMC for full

Email from Comm. Dacumos which included an attachment form a recent training session called "Responding to the Homeless on our doorsteps." The PDF file includes excellent info on available shelter services for those in need.

SAM FRA 3 CHS (Email communication from Nicole Wheaton. She notes that she expects that the Mayor will be making an PUBLIC LIBRARY appointment to fill the vacant Commission Seat, In the very near future.

### Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business

Comm. Guy announced that she has been attending negotiating meetings of the Armory Committee for acquisition of Veterans services space at the San Francisco Armory...and that she will report on progress as it occurs.

# Agenda Item 4 - Old Business (Reports on ongoing Issues)

A. Discussion and potential action on the subject of City of S.F. policy on "Buy Back" of Active Duty Service Time, to add to Retirement credit for City Employees, Unfortunately, Comm. Tramil not present to present on this issue, however Pres.

RamIrez states that he has been in communication with the City of S.F. Director of Human Resources, and reports that she is currently establishing new "streamlined" hiring policies for the City. Pres. RamIrez provided her with Federal guidelines on Hiring Preferences for Veterans for review in this effort. Pres. RamIrez concluded by stating that he will follow up on this and report to the Commission via email, or at next VAC meeting.

B. Report on VETERANS COURT for San Francisco. Comm. Maffel, reports that the S.F. Veterans Court is now well established and meets every Wednesday, at 2pm, at a small courtroom at 575 Polk St. Local newspapers have included articles on the establishment of the new S.F. Veterans Court. The court judge and staff recently visited the Santa Clara Veterans Court operation. Comm. Maffel will report on further developments as they occur.

C. Report on issues of needed improvements at Ft. Milev:

- > Progress of Security lighting at Ft. Miley bus-stop. Comm. Guy, Lead, has nothing new to report on this issue at this time.
  - Improvement of directional STREET SIGNAGE. Comm. Wilkerson, Lead, not present to report. Item tabled for future Agenda

### Agenda Item 5 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

- LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY reported that she recently met with Mayor's Policy Director Jason Elliott, and spoke with him about VAC Legislative Committee issues such as Data Collection and Veterans Employment, She will have further reports on future Agenda as Legislative Committee makes progress.
- Comm. Wong reported on the new federal STOLEN VALOR ACT of 2013, recently signed into law by President
  Obama. The new law protects Freedom of Speech rights, but addresses those who would PROFIT from falsification
  of military history or citations/awards.

### Agenda Item 6 - War Memorial Veterans Building

Lead Comm. Caldera had no new items to report in this area. Building is closed for start of remodel construction.

Guest and WMC Commissioner Paul Cox announced that the A.L. War Memorial Commission and A.L. District 8

Headquarters have been relocated to office space (of approx... 48, 5r, Ft.) at 205 13<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 3300 for the duration of remodel work at the WMVB. He noted that the larger issue of retention of Veterans Rights in Space Planning after completion of remodel is still critical, and announced potential Litigation against the City and Board of Trustees to Insure guarantee of adequate space in building for Veterans Organizations and Veterans services for future generations.

### Agenda Item 7 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook leon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfavoil.org/index.asav?page=1688

- Comm. Guy announced that the FAR WEST VALOR GAMES are in progress this week in venues around the Bay Area.
   These events include various sports competition among disabled veterans. Further information is available at VALOR GAMES website at: <a href="http://www.twwaa.org/valor-qames-far-west/">http://www.twwaa.org/valor-qames-far-west/</a>
- President Ramirez announced that the JUNE Town Hall Collaborative meetings will be held at a NEW LOCATION, and a NEW TIME, on Wednesday, the 26th of June 2013. Location is the CA/NV Room, second floor, at the Federal Building, at 450 Golden Gate Ave. New TIME for the event is 3pm to 5pm (See further into including access and ID requirements on VAC Website FaceBook page).
- Comm. Caldera announced that the Grand Opening of the new VETERANS COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER will be celebrated at an all day event on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013, at their new space at 1720 Market St., San Francisco. All are invited to come and check out their new TV and Recording Studios and Media facilities.

### Agenda Item #8 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community. The Moment of Silence concluded the meeting.

# Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT

## Meeting adjourned @ 7:40pm

NOTE: There is NO meeting of the SFVAC in July. As per announcement on website, the Commission is in Recess in July. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 13, 2013.

Minutes of the 6/11/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and APPROVED, as amended, In the VAC meeting of 8/13/13.

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: War Memorial Veterans Building - 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 101

Tuesday, August 13, 2013, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA

President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

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- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of June 11, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).
- 2. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report: President Ramirez to report.
  - B. Vice Presidents Report; V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Progress Report on update of Social Media pages on SFVAC Website.
  - C. Secretary's Report: Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications
- 3. NEW Business
  - Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission Policy on Inclusion of Agenda Items as submitted by Commission members, Potential Action may include establishment of formal Policy in this area and/or amendment of Commission Bylaws.
- 4. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Report on issues of needed improvements at Ft. Milev:
    - > Improvement of directional STREET SIGNAGE (Comm. Wilkerson, Lead)
- 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY to report on further developments within the Legislation Committee.

- 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
  - Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Comm. Caldera, Lead)
- 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzelder@gmail.com or telephone 415-378-8214





Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Veterans Affairs Commission City and County of San Francisco City Hall, Room 053 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102

Date: Tuesday, 13 August, 2013

From: Commissioner Stephen S. Noetzel

To: VAC President E. Ramirez and all Commissioners

Subject: PROPOSED Amendment to existing VAC Bylaws

President Ramirez and Commissioners:

In accordance with Article IX. (Amendment of Bylaws) the proposed Amendment to existing VAC Bylaws is submitted for discussion and consideration as part of the published Agenda for the 8/13/13 General Meeting of the SFVAC. This submittal satisfies the "Amendment of Bylaws" provision (under Bylaws Article IX) which mandates that proposed amendments must be "submitted in writing at least one previous General Meeting of the VAC".

Having met this notice requirement the subject Amendment may be voted "up or down" at the SFVAC meeting of September 10, 2013.

TEXT of the proposed amendment (to Section 7b of Article IV), is highlighted in yellow, below.

## ARTICLE IV. Officers (including Elections and Primary Duties)

Section 7. PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

The Primary Duties of the President Include, but are not necessarily limited to:

a. Preside over the General Meetings of the Commission.

- b. Author the AGENDA for such meetings while incorporating Agenda Item suggestions duly submitted by Commission Members. All duly submitted Agenda Items requested by members of the Commission shall be added to the Agenda as requested. During the Agenda Approval Process, any Item on the Published Agenda may be stricken from said Agenda, by appropriate motion, second, and majority vote of the Commission.
- (c) Represent the voice of the Commission at official meetings and functions (as per authorization and direction

by Commission.

(d) At start of term, present the broad Goals and Plans for the Commission and after gaining consensus support,

guide the Commission in promulgation of established Goals and Plans.

(e) Sign all Official Correspondence of the Commission, or, when impractical, authorize Commission Secretary to

sign "For the President".

- (f) Cast a tie-breaking vote (if needed) in any official vote taken by the Commission.
- (g) As the last official act of the Administration, present to the newly elected President a FINAL DRAFT of the

ANNUAL REPORT of the Administration year, for consideration and ratification by the Commission.



# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: August 13, 2013

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the August Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in Citv Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Eduardo Ramirez at 6:00pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Caldera, Dacumos, Gallager, Guy, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (10)

Absent and excused by President: Commissioners Baldonado (Illness).

Absent - UN-EXCUSED: Commissioners L. Burnette, M. Maffel, and M. Tramil

Note: Commissioners A. Crichlow, and W. Levin Resigned from Commission, effective 8/12/13.

Commission strength currently at 14 active members, with THREE (Mayoral appointed) vacancles.

Attending Guests: Former Commissioner Dara Wong, Peter Lauterborn, Amos Gregory, and Nelson Lum. (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was not in attendance.)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Wilkerson (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Guy), Without further discussion the Draft Agenda was approved, as published.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of June 11, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm. Wilkerson (2nd Comm. Caldera). In Discussion, Comm. Caldera offered a minor correction to note that his Agenda Item Request for the subject meeting was the first such request that he has made. Minutes corrected to reflect this item. Without further discussion a vote to accept the Minutes for the 6/11/13, VAC Meeting, as amended, passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Peter Loutenborn introduced himself as a Legislative Aide to Supervisor Eric Mar. He stated that he was appearing before the Commission to assure all that Supervisor Mar is actively seeking resolution to the lack of Street Signage to direct visitors to the VA Facility at Ft. Miley. He has had preliminary discussion with staff of both the MTA, and the VA, to develop a plan for signage improvement. He will keep us updated on progress on this issue.

Mr. Amos Gregory introduced himself as a Veteran/ArtIst who has been involved in an art project called Veterans Alley in San Francisco. The City has informally supported the 'Veteran Themed' ever-growing Mural in Shannon Alley in the Tenderloin area of S.F. Photos and depictions of the ongoing artwork are viewable at several websites. Mr. Gregory seeks endorsement for a formal name change of Shannon Alley, to VETERAN'S ALLEY. President Ramirez asked that this issue be placed on the Agenda for the next VAC meeting to provide an opportunity for such Endorsement.

Mr. Nelson Lum, President of the American Legion War Memorial Commission offered advice on the current American Legion protocol for Veterans participation in public Pledge of Allegiance ceremonies. He stated that the proper protocol is for Veterans (in uniform or not) to stand at attention, render a salute, but to remain silent during the pledge, Comm. Noetzel pointed out that if such protocol were followed at VAC meetings, there is a potential for a totally silent 'pledge', since all Commissioners are Veterans. Comm. Wong stated that he had some doubt that this is the final word on the Protocol, With that, Comm. Towers offered to research this question and report his findings on Piedge of Allegiance Protocol for Veterans, at the next VAC meeting. Pres. Ramirez asked him to do so.

#### Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

#### A. President's Report:

President Ramirez opened his report by stating that he has no Intention to stifle or Inhibit the Democratic Process at a VAC meeting he is presiding over. He then followed with a public apology to Commissioner Caldera for barring inclusion of an Agenda item submitted by him. He further stated that his current policy is to include all Agenda Item Requests made by Commissioners, with potential for approval or deletion in a democratic fashion, during the Agenda Approval segment of each meeting.

Pres. Ramirez also introduced the notion of a One Vet One Voice concept. He expressed a vision that the City of San Francisco to become the model for Services to City Veterans. He stated that the concept supports the Governors Inter-Agency Council on Veterans in its commitment to focus on 4 primary areas of service, namely: Health, Education, Housing, and Employment. He stated that the Office of the Mayor is already "onboard" in support of this concept, and requested that it be placed on the Agenda at the next VAC meeting for Endorsement Action.

#### B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P. Towers welcomed Commissioners back after the July Recess and stated that he had event items that he would cover in the ANNOUNCEMENTS segment.

Officers Reports....Continued from previous page.

#### C. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Noetzel reported on recent Commission Correspondence including:

- Copy of a Letter of Resignation from Commissioner Alexandra Crichlow, and
- Copy of a Letter of Resignation from Commissioner Wallace Levin.
- Both Commissioners cited health and/or family health issues as primary reason for resignation at this time. Both Commissioners are Mayoral Appointees, thereby bring the total number of Vacant Commission seats to three (3) all Mayoral appointed. Sec'v Noetzel urges all Commissioners to assist in finding and developing qualified and competent San Francisco appointment candidate veterans, and asks that they apply directly to the Office of the Mayor to declare their candidacy.
- > Sec'y Noetzel also reminded fellow Commissioners that all (newer) Commissioners are required to take the Online Ethics Training course within a year after appointment. Please contact Noetzel if you have questions in this regard

#### Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business

A. Potential Action on new Commission Policy on Inclusion of Agenda Items as submitted by Commission members. Secretary Noetzel reminded Commissioners that he included with the recent mailing, an information sheet that defined a submittal for potential establishment of formal amendment of Commission Bylaws in this regard. Such notification is the first required step in amending the VAC Bylaws. He urged Commission members to read the proposed Bylaws Amendment for further Action and an eventual Up or Down vote at the next VAC meeting.

B. Comm. Caldera opened a short discussion on the potential for holding a VAC meeting at an alternative location as a 'reach-out' effort to the community. He cited as examples, the Community Room at the recently opened Veterans Commons Housing Project at 150 Otis Street, and the VAC Medical Center at Ft. Miley. After some discussion, Pres. Ramirez asked Comm. Caldera to further research the potential for such Relocated meetings, and to report at the Sept. VAC meeting. Comm. Caldera said he would do so.

#### Agenda Item 4 - Old Business (Reports on ongoing Issues)

- A. Report on Female Veterans Issues. Comm. Guy, reports that she recently attend a meeting of the S.F. Commission on Women's' Issues, and that they expressed sincere interest in working with the SFVAC on issues specific to Female Veterans. She will continue to serve as Liaison on this important issue.
- B. Comm. Caldera raised the question of a potential leadership vacuum, (in light of the W. Levin Commission seat resignation), with respect to the annual Veterans Day Parade, and the Memorial Day Presidio events. Comm. Noetzel offered to act as Liaison on these questions, and meet with Mr. Levin, and Report back to the Commission at the September meeting, President Ramirez asked him to do so.

#### Agenda Item 5 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

- LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY reported that she has been appointed as a Leadership Fellow, (with the Iraq/AfghanIstan Veterans of America) and in that role she is participating in an IAVA event called Summerstorm'. In that role she recently met with legislative staff personnel in the offices of both Sen. Feinstein, and Rep. Pelosi. Several items of potential Federal legislation (with respect to veterans) were discussed. She will have further reports on future Agenda as Legislative Committee makes progress.
- Comm. Wong reported on the Email that he sent to Commissioners earlier in the day. It covered the status of five (5) House of Representatives bills on legislation affecting veterans, which have now been moved to the entire House for consideration and a potential vote. Comm. Noetzel asked if there was any 'overlap' in this list, with the bills that she mentioned. She said that she would research this question, and report back to the Commission.

#### Agenda Item 6 - War Memorlai Veterans Bullding

Lead Comm. Caldera had no new items to report in this area. President Ramirez asked ALWMC President Nelson Lum to report on any new progress in this area. Comm. Lum reported that there was a SECOND meeting between members of the ALWMC, and Gen. Myatt, representing the interests of the War Memorial Buildings Board of Trust. He said that there are now ongoing negotiations between the ALWMC and the BOT, on Space Allocation for Veterans Groups and other Patriotic organizations, and that building remodel construction is 'on track' for a planned 6/15/15 re-opening.

#### Agenda Item 7 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook Icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfgov3.org/Index.aspx?page=1688

Announcements....Continued from previous page.

- President Ramirez announced that on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August there will be a CLASS (from 1-4pm) titled: The Entrepreneur In You. Location is the new Federal Building, at 90 7<sup>th</sup> St., Room B040.
- President Ramirez announced that Wednesday August 28<sup>th</sup> is the date of the next Town Hall Collaborative meetings. Location is the CA/NV Room, second floor, at the Federal Building, at 450 Golden Gate Ave. Link and details available on the VAC Website via the HomePage Facebook and Twitter logo buttons.
- President Ramirez announced that on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, at the MISSION CULTURAL CENTER, he will be presenting the Second Annual Veterans Film Festival, "with a focus on SALUTE TO WOMEN". He invites all Commissioners to bring suggestions in this regard directly to him.
- Comm. Guy announced that on Saturday, October the 12<sup>th</sup> there will be an Alcatraz to Aquatic Park Swim event, sponsored by a variety of bay area Veterans' Groups. Comm. Guy promised to send out further information on this event after she attends an upcoming Planning meeting. Link and details available on the VAC Website via the HomePage Facebook and Twitter logo buttons.
- Comm. Dacumos announced that the S.F. Interfaith Council will honor veterans with a Thanksgiving Event In November. She will be offering more details after upcoming Planning meetings.
- Comm. Towers announced availability of a special offer from Linkedin, available to US Military Veterans. It includes a free one year subscription to their Premiere Job Seekers Networking Service. Link and details available on the VAC Website via the HomePage Facebook and Twitter logo buttons.

Agenda Item #8 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community. Specific honors this month are accorded to the memory of JOSE JULIO SARRIA, a WWII veteran and a Pioneering LGBT Civil Rights leader, who recently passed at age 91. The Moment of Silence concluded the meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 7:22pm

Minutes of the 8/13/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and Approved (as amended) at the VAC meeting of 9/10/13.

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## Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

SEP - 6 2019

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of August 13, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

#### 2 Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report: President Ramirez to report, including (but not limited to) introduction of his One Vet, One Voice service ethic (with full presentation under New Business).

- B. Vice Presidents Report; V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Report on his research on current Protocol for Veterans participating in public Pledge of Allegiance Ceremony.
- C. Secretary's Report: Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications

#### 3. NEW Business

- A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of the VETERAN'S ALLEY ART PROJECT in San Francisco - Including potential request for a Street Name Change to formalize Veteran's Alley, (Guest Amos Gregory to present)
- B. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement for introduction of a "ONE VET. ONE VOICE. ONE LOCATION" service ethic to provide more effective services to area veterans, specifically in the areas of Health, Education, Housing, and Employment, (Lead; Pres. Ramirez).
- C. Discussion and Potential Action regarding occasional RELOCATION of the site of one or more future VAC meetings. in an effort to 'reach out' to a broader community of veterans. Possible "on the road" meeting sites for a future VAC meeting includes (but is not limited to) the Veterans Commons Housing Project at 150 Otis Street, and the VAC Medical Center at Ft. Miley. (Comm. Caldera, Lead).
- D. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of a RESOLUTION in support of City Government Lawsuit to insure continuing operation of S.F. City College, thereby supporting the 1300 Veteran students attending (Comm. Noetzel, Lead).
- 4. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Proposed Bylaws Change regarding new Commission Policy on inclusion of Agenda Items as submitted by Commissioners, (Comm. Noetzel, Lead)
  - B. Report on current status of Street Signage Improvements to direct drivers to best route to the VAC facilities at Ft. Miley (Comm. Wilkerson, Lead)

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY to report on further developments within the Legislation Committee.

#### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Comm. Caldera, Lead)

- 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 8. Honors Report and Moment of Slience: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 9. AJORNMENT Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzelder@gmail.com or telephone 415-378-8214

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

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Note to Commissioners: If you know beforehand that you will NOT be able to attend the meeting for this AGENDA, please advise Commission Secretary S. Noetzel via Telephone (415.378.8214) or Email: noetzelder@gmail.com

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: Sept. 10, 2013

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the September Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Eduardo Ramirez at 6:02pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Roll Ca

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Dacumos, Gallager, Guy, Maffei, Noetzel,

Ramirez, Towers, Wilkerson (11)

Absent and excused by President: Commissioners Weeby, Wong

Absent - UN-EXCUSED: M. Tramil

Note: Commissioners A. Crichlow, W. Levin and M. Tramil have recently Resigned from Commission. Commission strength currently at 13 active members, with a total of FOUR vacancies, (i.e. THREE Mayoral appointed and ONE [808 Appointed].

Attending Guests: Ken Johnson, Ken Eisen, Ardist Cooper, Maurice Delmer (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Wilkerson (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado). Without further discussion the Draft Agenda was approved, as published.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of August 13, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm. Wilkerson (2nd Comm. Caldera). In Discussion, Comm. Caldera offered a minor correction to note that the Honors Report at the conclusion of the subject meeting did not include a specific commemoration on the memory of JOSE JULIO SARRIA, a WWII veteran and a Ploneering LGBT CIVII Rights leader, who recently passed at age 91. The correction will be made for the archive version of the Minutes. Without further discussion a vote to accept the Minutes for the 8/13/13, VAC Meeting, as amended, passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ken Johnson introduced himself as a veteran and a friend of WWII Veteran known widely in the Bay Area as COMMANDER ULYSSES MOORE. He advised that Commander Moor had recently dled at age 91, had no family in the area, and there were sparse resources for a proper funeral, and no funds available to transport his remains to his home in West Point, Mississippi. Mr. Johnson asked if the SFVAC, or any of its members, could garner some assistance; specifically requesting any help with their unsuccessful attempt to have Southwest Airlines transport the casket and remains to Mississippi. President Ramírez advised him that the Commission would look into the matter to see what could be done.

Mr. Ardist Cooper introduced himself as a veteran and spoke specifically about Ft. Mason. He said that this government owned and operated facility makes no special accommodation for veterans; not even a reduced parking rate for Disabled Veterans, and it has no facilities for veterans services. He asked what could be done at this former military base, for veterans. Comm. Noetzel noted that this seems to be a legitimate request and suggested that the Commission might look into the feasibility of installation of a Fitness and Wellness Center, either at Ft. Mason or the Presidio. President Ramirez advised that there is now such a facility in operation in the Presidio, run in partnership with the YMCA, and administered by Mr. Chris Geronimo of the VA.

Mr. Maurice Delmer introduced himself as an Outreach Coordinator at the S.F. Vet Center. He introduced an October 12<sup>th</sup> EVENT called: TAKE THE ROCK. It is a Veterans Swim Challenge event. After his presention, Press. Ramirez asked that this item be included on the Agenda for the October 8, VAC meeting for a potential Formal Endorsement by the VAC.

#### Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports

#### A. President's Report:

Pres. Ramirez re-introduced the notion of the One Vet One Voice concept. He expressed a vision that the City of San Francisco to become the model for a full spectrum of services to area Veterans. (Note: See continuing discussion under New Business, Action Item 38, below).

## B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Towers added that he also had input for the "One Vet, One Voice" program which he would reserve for that segment of the Agenda, and stated that he had event items that he would cover in the ANNOUNCEMENTS segment.

#### C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Noetzel reported on recent Commission Correspondence including receipt of a 10-page document from the Office of the City Attorney (Dennis Herrera), on the subject: Political Activity By City Officers and Employees. The Document will remain in the Commission Archive Records (maintained by the Secretary) for reference by Commissioners. Secretary's Report; Continued from previous page.

Secretary Noetzel also provided his REPORT to the Commission (as requested by Pres. Ramirez), on the STATUS of the VETERAN'S DAY PARADE, and the MEMORIAL DAY PRESIDIO EVENT, now that Commissioner Wallace Levin has resigned from the SFVAC. Sec'N lostel has met with Mr. Levin and reports his findings, as follows:

- Both of the subject events have been supported by the VAC (ever since its inception, as the SF Veterans Affairs COUNCIL, in 1983, but at no time have the events been actual PROJECTS of the VAC, nor has there ever been any oversight or control by the SFVAC.
- The subject EVENTS have always been endorsed, supported and advertised by the SFVAC, as highlighted on our Website Home Page....
- The subject events have been FUNDED, over the years, by annual GRANTS, made by the S.F. Arts Commission under its
  Annual GRANTS FOR THE ARTS program. The GRANTEE is actually a local post of the VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS.

Mr. LevIn assures the Commission that despite his resignation, he continues his organizing work to insure that these events remain viable and "ongoing" for the foreseeable future. With respect to the VETERAN'S DAY PARADE, he has been trying to find an agency or department within the City Government of San Francisco to take over responsibility of the planning and running of the Veterans Day event.

With respect to the ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION AT THE PRESIDIO, it has been run under the auspices of the PRESIDIO TRUST, and most of the Event Funding is derived from that Agency.

Sec'y Noetzel concluded his REPORT by suggesting that the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission continue to support and endorse these events, each year, but since we have neither a staff or a funding mechanism, the extend of our official involvement should be limited to our Endorsement. While individual Commissioners continue their sconal supportive efforts.

#### Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business

- A. Pres. Ramirez re-introduced this Potential Action Agenda item, regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of the VETERAN'S ALLEY ART PROJECT in San Francisco including potential request for a Street Name Change to formalize Veteran's Alley. Secretary Noetzel offered a formal Motion to Endorse this project (Comm. Maffel 2<sup>nd</sup>). In discussion Comm. Caldera suggested that we TABLE further action and discussion to a future meeting as the "prime mover" of the initiative (Mr. Amos Gregory) is out of the country and would like to be present for this deliberation. President Ramirez agreed and the item is TABLED for future action.
- B. Pres. Ramirez again introduced this Potential Action Agenda item, regarding the regarding Commission support and possible endorsement for introduction of a "ONE VET, ONE VOICE, ONE LOCATION" service ethic to provide more effective services to area veterans, specifically in the areas of Health, Education, Housing, and Employment. He said that his hope is to have this program included in the Space Planning negotiations for the future of Veterans Services in the War Memorial Veterans Building. He stated that there is growing support for the concept, including interest from many potential supporters and potential participants, including "Craig's List" founder Mr. Craig Newmark, The S.F. Bar Association, the Governors Inter-Agency Council on Veterans, the County Veterans Service Organizations, Swords to Plowshares, and local banks and other businesses. Comm. Towers suggested that what we actually have, at this point, is a CONCEPT, rather than a Program. He said that the Commission should support further development of the concept. Comm. Noetzel then offered a MOTION that the SFVAC Endorse the CONCEPT of the "ONE VET, ONE VOICE, ONE LOCATION" program, to be further developed by Pres. RamIrez (2nd. Comm. Towers). In discussion, Comm. Caldera offered support for the Motion, stating that the program can and should be fully developed and instituted and that a LETTER in support of the concept (to the City Government) should be added to the motion. Comm. Noetzel accepted the suggested amendment to his MOTION. After further discussion, the question was called and a VOTE was held on a MOTION to support "ONE VET, ONE VOICE, ONE LOCATION" initiative as a CONCEPT, and that a LETTER in support of the concept, be written to the City Government. The MOTION carried, with 2 abstentions,
- C. Pres. Ramírez reviewed this Agenda item for Discussion and Potential Action regarding occasional RELOCATION of the site of one or more of the Monthly General Meetings of the Commission as an "outreach effort" to connect with a broader community of veterans. He turned to Comm. Caldera as Lead Commissioner on this effort, for his report. Comm. Caldera announced that the VETERANS COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER now operating out of its offices and studios at 1720 Market Street, would welcome the Commission to hold a trial meeting at their facility. Comm. Caldera followed with a Motion hold a 'trial meeting' at the VCMC. (2<sup>nd</sup>. Comm. Neetzel). MOTION: That the NOVEMBER 12, 2013 VAC Meeting shall be held at the Veterans Community Media Center (at 1720 Market Street). After some discussion, the question was called and a VOTE was held on a MOTION. Passed by majority vote. Comm. Caldera will complete arrangements to hold the NOVEMBER 12, 2013 VAC Meeting at the Veterans Community Media Center (1720 Market Street).

Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business - Continued from previous page.

D. Pres. RamIrez opened for discussion and Potential Action the issue of the potential CLOSURE of the S.F. City College system due to accreditation withdrawal. He turned to Comm. Noetzel as Lead Commissioner for further action however Comm. Noetzel requested that this item be TABLED for a report at a future VAC meeting so that the Impact of the City of S.F. Lawsuit (against the Board of Accreditation) can be reviewed, and so that the impact of reduces enrollment (by veterans) because of the potential on non-accreditation can be further studied. Pres. Ramirez then tabled this item for action at a future VAC meeting. The issue was TABLED for action at the Cotober meeting.

#### Agenda Item 4 - Old Business (Reports on ongoing issues).

A. Pres. Ramirez opened for discussion and Potential Action the issue of a Proposed Bylaws Change regarding new Commission Policy on Inclusion of Agenda Items as submitted by Commissioners. He turned to Lead Commissioner S. Noetzel on this issue for further development. Secretary Noetzel reminded Commissioners that he included with the recent mailing, an information sheet that defined the TEXT for a for potential Commission Bylaws amendment in this regard, noting that the initial requirement for a Bylaws change (i.e. previous month presentation of suggested amendment) had been accomplished and that we could now move forward with an "Up or Down vote" on the Issue. After his review of the process, Comm. Noetzel made a MOTION that we adopt the proposed changes to the Bylaws, as offered. (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Maffel). In discussion, Comm. Caldera offered a suggestion of a minor addition to the proposed amendment, namely to add the words "or tabled". The new amendment text in *bold italics*, below, would therefore read.

Article IV. Officers, Section 7. PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

The Primary Dutles of the President Include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- a. Preside over the General Meetings of the Commission.
- b. Author the AGENDA for such meetings while incorporating Agenda Item suggestions duly submitted by Commission Members. All duly submitted Agenda Items requested by members of the Commission shall be added to the Agenda as requested. During the Agenda Approval Process, any item on the Published Agenda may be stricken or tabled, from said Agenda, by appropriate motion, second, and majority vote of the Commission.

Having accepted this minor change the question was called and a VOTE was held. The Motion PASSED without objection and the Bylaws are hereby AMMENDED, as state above.

- B. Pres. RamIrez opened for discussion and Potential Action the issue of Street Signage Improvements to direct drivers to best route to the VAC facilities at Ft. Miley. Comm. Wilkerson, who is Lead in this effort, reported that he is continuing his research and discussions on this issue and will make a full Report when significant progress has been made. The item was TABLED for review at a future meeting.
- B. At this point Comm. Calder a raised a question regarding the recent RESIGNATION of Commissioner Mary Tramil, asking if she had submitted a formal Letter of Resignation. Secretary Noetzel answered that she had 'resigned' via Email announcement only, and that she had been advised that a formal Letter of Resignation is required so that her Commission Seat (BOS #2) could be listed as VACANT. Comm. Caldera then suggested that as we now have a total of FOUR vacancies, this might be a good time for the Commission to consider a formal request for a DELETION of the two Commission Seats most recently added, After some discussion, President Ramirez agreed that this is an issue that should be added to the AGENDA for the next Commission meeting for discussion and potential action.

Agenda Item 5 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

As LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY was absent, President Ramirez TABLED this item for inclusion at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 6 - War Memorial Veterans Building

Lead Comm. Caldera had no new items to report in this area. President Ramirez announced that a Construction-in-progress "walk through" of the site was scheduled for some time in November. Comm. Noetzel suggested that the Commission should certainly have a presence at such an event. Pres. Ramirez agreed and said he will keep the Commission informed of this opportunity as plans are formalized.

Agenda Item 7 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://stgov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688

Announcements....Continued from previous page.

- President Ramirez announced that the Second Annual Veterans Film Festival will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, at the MISSION CULTURAL CENTER, from12 noon to 6pm. Scheduled films include "Camouflage Closet" and "Sandstone" There will also be musical performance and other attraction. Pres. Ramirez will be distributing FLYERS for the event and full details will be added to the Social Media pages of the VAC Website.
- On Saturday, October the 12<sup>th</sup> there will be an Alcatraz to Aquatic Park Swim event, sponsored by a variety of bay area Veterans' Groups. Details available on the VAC Website via the HomePage Facebook and Twitter logo buttons.
- On Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November the S.F. Interfaith Council is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast. Comm. Dacumos announces that the theme this year is: "Honoring Veterans and the Falth Communities that serve Them". It will be at the Hotel Kabuki 1625 Post St. S.F. A FLYER, with full details will be added to the Social Media pages of the VAC Website.

Agenda Item #8 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community. The Moment of Silence concluded the meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT
Meeting adjourned @ 7:19pm

Minutes of the 9/10/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and Approved with minor corrections, at the VAC meeting of 10.8/13

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## Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
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Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

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- B. Vice Presidents Report; V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):
  - > Report on his research on current Protocol for Veterans participating in public Pledge of Allegiance Ceremony.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications

#### 3. NEW Business

- A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding occasional RELOCATION of the site of the NOVEMBER 12, 2013 VAC Meeting to the Veterans Community Media Center (at 1720 Market Street). This selfort to 'reach out' to a broader community of veterans was led by Comm. Caldera, who will report on arrangements made and lead further discussion.
- B. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of a RESOLUTION in support of City Government Lawsuit to Insure continuing operation of S.F. City College, thereby supporting the 1300 Veteran students attending (Comm. Nectzel, Lead).
- c. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support for a formal request to RESCIND the December 2009 City Code authorization which added TWO Commission Seats (one Mayoral Appointed, one BOS), thereby returning Commission strength to the original authorized membership of 15 (fifteen).
- D. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of the CYBERPATRIOT program, a national high school Cyber Defense Competition, sponsored by the Air Force Association.
- E. Discussion and Potential Action regarding the BACKLOG of CLAIMS at the VA. Commission will reserve reasonable time for presentation/Discussion of this issue by both Guests and Commissioners.
- F. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Calif. Legislature Bil AB639, the CA Homeless Veterans Services Bill. Commission will reserve reasonable time for presentation/Discussion of this issue by both Guests and Commissioners.
- 4. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of the VETERAN'S ALLEY ART PROJECT in San Francisco – including potential request for a Street Name Change to formalize Veteran's Alley. (Guest Amos Gregory to present)
  - B. Discussion and Potential Action to Endorse the October 12<sup>th</sup> Veterans Challenge Swim event called "TAKE THE ROCK" as introduced by event leader Mr. Maurice Delmer, at the September VAC meeting.

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY to report on further developments within the Legislation Committee.

#### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Comm. Caldera, Lead)

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#### DISABILITY ACCESS

CITY HALL of San Francisco is wheelchair accessible via all entrances. There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

Note to Commissioners: If you know beforehand that you will NOT be able to attend the meeting for this AGENDA, please advise Commission Secretary

S. Noetzel via Telephone (415,378,8214) or Email: noetzelder@gmail.com

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: October 8, 2013

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the October Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Eduardo Ramirez at 6:03pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Maffei, Noetzel, Ramirez, Wong (9) Absent and excused by President: Commissioner A. Weeby

Absent - UN-EXCUSED: Commissioners J. Gallager, J. Towers, E. Wilkerson

Note: Commission strength currently at 13 active members, with a total of FOUR vacancies, (i.e. THREE Mayoral appointed and ONE (BOS Appointed).

Attending Guests: Dara Wong, Amos Gregory, Ken Eisen, Latonia Dixon, Francis Balanon, Craig Newmark, Lucy Baldonado, Alexander Kaye & Ken Johnson, (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado). After minor discussion the Draft Agenda was approved, as published.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of Sept 10, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm. Caldera (2nd Comm. Dacumos). In Discussion, Commissioners Dacumos and Wong offered a minor corrections. A subsequent vote to accept the Minutes for the 9/10/13, VAC Meeting, as amended, passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Cali for PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ken Johnson introduced himself as a veteran spoke to REPORT on the recent funeral and transport of remains, of WWII Veteran COMMANDER ULYSSES MOORE. Speaking for himself and on behalf of the friends and family of Comm. Moore, he thanked the Commission for its work in helping secure air transport of the deceased (free of charge) via Southwest Airlines, and for help in arranging a full Military Funeral. Pres. Ramirez added that this was a great accomplishment and a primary example of the things that veterans can accomplish when effective effort is made on behalf of a fellow veteran.

Ms. Latonia Dixon introduced herself as the Commander of AL Post 315 and spoke to introduce an event she is leading, called TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, a healing Arts Festival, on Saturday the 25" of October. She described some of the excellent Speakers who will be participating, in addition to musical performances and a raffle. The event will end in the evening with a candlelight Vigil at the UN Plaza. She distributed flyers with full details to all. Pres. Ramirez suggested that the event be posted on the Social Media Pages of the SFVAC Website.

Ms. Alex Kaye introduced herself. She is working with the Veterans Outreach Program at the VA. More specifically, she is working with the Peer Mentorship Program at the Veterans Justice Center. The program matches volunteer veteran 'peers' to work with veterans involved in various rehabilitation programs to stay abreast of the court mandates of each individual program. They are seeking more veteran volunteers for this program. At present there are 33 veterans in court-mandated programs (in S.F.), and only 3 Veteran Mentors to work with them. All interested parties should contact Ms. Kaye, at alexandra.kaye@vs.oov

#### Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports

#### A. President's Report;

President Ramirez stated that he is still working to develop the ONE VET, ONE VOICE program that he had earlier introduced, but wished to table further discussion at this time, until the program is ready for formal introduction. Pres. Ramirez also reported on a the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Film Festival, held at the Mission Cultural Center, on Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. End of President's Report.

#### B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Towers was absent. No report.

#### C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Noetzel reported on 3 items. First is a series of email and other contacts with former Commissioner Mary TRAMIL. He is encouraging her to submit a formal Letter of Resignation to the Board of Supervisors, so that the Vacancy of BOS Seat #2 can be posted.

Second he announced that an INVITATION LETTER for the 2013 Veterans Day Parade, scheduled for Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November is now out and is posted on the Facebook page of the VAC Website. In addition to the Invitation Letter, there is also a Parade Contingency Application Form, which can be (for the first time) completed ONLINE, to ease the process. All commissioners are warmly invited to participate and/or volunteer for the Parade.

Secretary's Report; Continued from previous page.

Finally, Secretary Noetzel reminded all that at the next meeting of the VAC (i.e., meeting of Nov. 12, 2013) as per our Bylaws, the NOMINATION PROCESS for the 2014 Commission Officers will commence. He asked all Commissioners to consider what Office they might like to seek for the new term.

#### Agenda Item 3. - NEW Business

- A. RELOCATION of the meeting site of the NOVEMBER 12, 2013 VAC Meeting, Lead Commissioner J. Caldera reported that all arrangements have been made, to hold the NOVEMBER 12 meeting of the SFVAC, at the Veterans Community Media Center (at 1720 Market Street). This effort to 'reach out' to a broader community of veterans was affirmed by the Commission by acclimation. Special ANNOUNCEMENT efforts will be made to advertise the special November VAC Meeting Location.
- B. RESOLUTION in support of City Government Lawsuit to Insure continuing operation of S.F. City College. Lead Commissioner S. Noetzel introduced a DRAFT of a RESOLUTION in support of the 1300 Veteran students at SFCC who remain in jeopardy for future studies should SFCC close as a result of loss of accreditation. Resolution includes support for lawsuit filled by City Attorney Dennis Herrera, against the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCLC). Noetzel makes a motion that the VAC adopt the draft Resolution (2<sup>rd</sup>, Comm. Balfondo). Pres. Ramirez asked City Attorney Snodgrass if the language of the Draft Resolution includes any language that is illegal or lacks standing. He replies that it does not. In discussion, Comm. Maffel suggests in his opinion the VAC should not take any position regarding an active lawsuit, and that in his opinion, the SFVAC Resolution should not comment on the pending litigation. President Ramirez rules that the Issue is TABLED for further study, and asks Commissioners Noetzel and Maffel to work together to develop another DRAFT acceptable to both, and return to the Commission for Action under a future Agenda.
- C. Formal request to REDUCE Commission Size to the original 15 Member authorization. Lead, Comm. Noetzel opens with a review of current Commission Roster, noting that we currently have FOUR opened seats (i.e. three Mayor appointed, and one BOS appointed). He reviews the circumstances and motivation for the 2009 City Code change, which increased the number of VAC Commission seats from the traditional 15 members, to 17 (i.e. City Ordinance 245-09). He reviewed the difficult we have had in reaching quorum due to the four resignations, and difficulty in finding replacement candidates for appointment. He then presented for consideration a DRAFT of a Letter to City Leadership, Subject: Request to RESCIND City Ordinance 245-09 thereby Returning Commission Strength to the original fifteen members. The letter points out that the current VAC exceeds the diversity motivation behind the subject Ordinance and that as we currently have a vacancy in both Mayoral and BOS appointed seats, this is a perfect time to RESCIND the ordinance, and return the Commission to a more workable and efficient fifteen (15) members. Comm. Noetzel makes a MOTION that the Commission authorizes President Ramirez to forward this letter on behalf of the Commission. When the commission and a vote taken. The motion PASSED unanimously. The letter will be signed by President Ramirez and sent to the Mayor and BOS President.
- D. Potential Commission endorsement of CYBERPATRIOT program. President Ramirez made a presentation of the CYBERPATRIOT program, introducing it as an extension of the STEM PROGRAM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math). The STEM program is supported and endorsed by many entities, including the Air Force Association. It includes a competition where students compete for prizes for innovation on the STEM fields of study. He stated that UC Berkeley recently Increased funding for research in its CYBER DEFENSE studies, within their STEM program. Pres. Ramirez concludes that VAC support for the CYBERPATRIOT program has potential for getting veterans into UC Berkeley to study in this field, and requests a MOTION for endorsement and a Letter to City Government in support of the CYBERPATRIOT program. MOTION is made by Comm. Noetzel. After repeated calls for a SECOND, the motion falls for lack of a second. Pres. Ramirez advises further research into the program by Commissioners, and will return it to a future Agenda if there is interest within the Commission.
- E. BACKLOG of CLAIMS at the VA. Guest Cralg Newmark (founder of Craig's List, and longtime supporter of the Veterans Success Center) spoke about his interest in 'getting the word out' to recent veterans, with respect to some of the local help and programs available to bay-area veterans. Also, he spoke of a new initiative to work with VA leadership on the potential of mittigating some of the Claims Backlog via Institution of an Electronic Claims Filling System. Mr. Newmark concluded with a promise to follow up with appropriate VA leadership in an effort to merge the efforts of various Veterans Service Organizations and the VA on accelerated resolution of the Claims Backlog.
- F. Potential Commission endorsement of Calif. Legislature Billi AB639, the CA Homeless Veterans Services Bill.

  Comm. Noetzel opens by introduction of a DRAFT ADVICE LETTER to City Administration & Leadership, requesting their Support and endorsement of this important piece of legislation which would enable use of previously authorized funds to help Veterans and their families find housing in rental properties, as well as home ownership. Comm. Noetzel read the text of his DRAFT LETTER into the record and made a MOTION that the Commission authorizes President Ramirez to forward this letter on behalf of the Commission ("0", Comm. Baldonado.) After some discussion, and syntax corrections, the Question was called and a vote taken. The motion PASSED unanimously. The letter will be signed by President Ramirez and sent to the Mayor and BOS President. NOTE: Further action on this issue was PRECLUDED as Governor Brown signed AB639 Into LAW, a mere 2 days after the meeting.

Agenda Item 4. - Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)

- A. Potential Action regarding Commission endorsement of the VETERAN'S ALLEY ART PROJECT In San Francisco Pres. Ramirez re-introduced Mr. Amos Gregory (artist and founder of the Veteran's Ally Project). Mr. Gregory reviewed his progress on the multi-mural project, including plans for additional new murals by Veteran Artists, and a scheduled "walk through" of the project by City Officials scheduled for 10/15/13. The review by city officials is part of a formal process in a hopeful RE-NAMIING of the Alley as VETERAN'S ALLY, After Mr. Gregory provided additional informative comments about growth of similar projects inspired by the original right here in San Francisco, Comm. Noetzel revived his earlier MOTION, namely that the SFVAC ENDORSES the Veterans Alley Art Project and the initiative to RE-NAME the subject Alley as Veterans Alley....and that the Commission Appoints Commissioner JOHN GALLAGHER as Liaison to work with all interest parties in the interest of accomplishing the Name Change Goal. (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Baldonado). In discussion Comm. Dacumos raised a question as to the current name of the Ally and its origin. Mr. Gregory replied that the current name. SHANNON WAY has its origins in the Irish American influence that grew from an earlier population of the neighborhood. He added that if the name change were made. City policy provides for a 5-year Transition Period where both names would appear on street signs. The Question was called and a vote taken. The motion PASSED unanimously
- B. Potential Action regarding Commission endorsement of the 10/12/13 Veterans Challenge Swim event called "TAKE THE ROCK". Lead Comm. Guy informed the Commission that the event was still planned, but event leader Mr. Maurice Delmer has appounced that the event is now on "hold" due to the looming potential of a curtailment of government services (affecting Alcatraz Island). Meanwhile the event is still planned, and Comm. Guy made a MOTION (2nd, Comm. Noetzel) that the SFVAC ENDORSES the "TAKE THE ROCK" Veterans Challenge Swim Event. After minimal additional discussion, the Question was called and a vote taken. The motion PASSED unanimously. The event will be advertised on the VAC Website social media pages as a VAC ENDORSED event.

Agenda Item 5 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

As LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY was absent, President Ramirez TABLED further discussion in this area.

Agenda Item 6 - War Memorial Veterans Building Lead Comm. Caldera had no new items to report in this area.

Agenda Item 7 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfqov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688

- Saturday, October 12, 2013; Alcatraz to Aquatic Park Swim event, sponsored by a variety of bay area Veterans' Groups. Details available on the VAC Website via the HomePage Facebook and Twitter logo buttons.
- > Sunday, November 10, 2013: The 2013 VETERANS DAY PARADE. Parade units form starting at 10am at Market and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets. See website: stveteransdayparade@gmail.com. Contingency Participation application available on Facebook page of VAC website, url: http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688
- Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November: S.F. Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast. Theme: "Honoring Veterans and the Falth Communities that serve them". Hotel Kabuki 1625 Post St. S.F. Details on Social Media pages of the VAC Website

Agenda Item #8 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community. The Moment of Silence concluded the meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 7:32pm

Minutes of the 10/8/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and Approved as written, at the VAC meeting



City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

# NOTE: Special Meeting LOCATION - THIS MEETING ONLY:

Veterans Community Media Center - 1720 Market St. San Francisco, CA 94102

President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-in on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of October 8, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report; President Eddie Ramirez

B. Vice Presidents Report; V.P. Towers to report, including (but not limited to):

- > Report on his research on current Protocol for Veterans participating in public Pledge of Allegiance Ceremony.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications including, but not necessarily limited to:
  - STATUS of TRAMIL resignation and BOS Seat #2.
  - STATUS of VAC request for Reduction of authorized positions.
  - > STATUS of Calif. Legislature Bill AB639, the CA Homeless Veterans Services Bill.

#### 3. Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2014 Term.

- A. Secretary to distribute copies of portions of the ByLaws, which pertain to, and describe the Duties and Responsibilities of each of the 3 Officer Positions that constitute the Executive Board.
- B. President to open floor for NOMINATIONS, for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, in accordance with established ByLaws Secretary to Record all Nominations.

#### 4. NEW Business

A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of the VETERANS COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER (VCMC). Co-Directors Ellison Horne and JeanCharles Morris to provide introduction of its MISSION, goals, and recent activities of our Venue Host for this meeting.

#### 5. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing Issues)

A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of a RESOLUTION in support of City Government Lawsuit to insure continuing operation of S.F. City College, thereby supporting the 1300 per Veteran students attending (Comm. Noetzel, Lead).

DOCUMENTS DEPT

## 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY to report on further developments within the Legislation Committee 7 2013

#### 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Various Reports regarding developments in this area. (Comm. Caldera, Lead)

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 10. AJORNMENT Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzelder@gmail.com or telephone 415-378-8214

This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

#### PUBLIC ACCESS:

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For information on your rights under the Sunshine ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Mr. Chris RUSTON, Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at telephone # 415-554-7724.

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the SECOND TUESDAY of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 416 in CITY HALL, however the location of the November 12, 2013 meeting has been RELOCATED TO THE Veterans Community Media Center – 1720 Market St. San Francisco, CA 94102

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

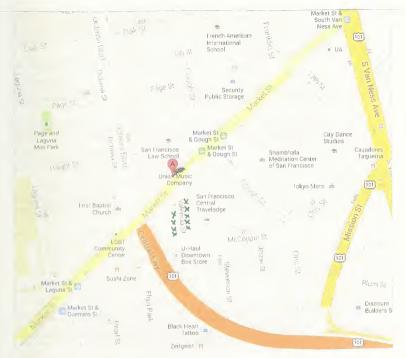
DISABILITY ACCESS

THE Veterans Community Media Center - 1720 Market St. is wheelchair accessible facility.

Note to Commissioners: If you know beforehand that you will NOT be able to attend the meeting for this AGENDA, please advise Commission Secretary

S. Noetzel via Telephone (415.378.8214) or Email: noetzelder@gmail.com

# GETTING TO THE NOVEMBER 12 VAC MEETING, at the Veterans Community Media Center....at 1720 Market St., S.F. 94102.



## NOTE: The RED 'A' icon on this map indicates your destination: 1720 Market St.

For those who DRIVE...I have placed some green X's where (metered) parking is often available (around 6pm in the evening), on VALENCIA STREET

## For those who take PUBLIC TRANSIT:

- Closest MUNI METRO STATION: Van Ness (One block walk) south along Market to # 1720.
- > MUNI Light Rail (along Market) : the 98F
- MUNI Busses...along Market Street: K. L. M. N.

BART...Is not very close. A long 6-block walk, south, along Market St....from the Civic Center Station



## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: Nov. 12, 2013

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the November Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order at the announced SPECIAL LOCATION: The VETERANS COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER, 1720 Market St., S.F. CA, by President Eduardo Ramirez at 6:05m. Meeting started with the traditional Pleade of Allegiance.

#### Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, , Burnette, Caldera, Dacumos, Gallager, Maffel, Noetzel, Ramírez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (11) Absent and excused by President: Comm. D. Guy

Absent - UN-EXCUSED: Commissioners R. Baldonado

Note: Commission strength currently at 13 active members, with a total of FOUR vacancies, (i.e. THREE Mayoral appointed and ONE (BOS Appointed).

Attending Guests: Dara Wong, Brendan Rogers, Carlo Garza, Ken Eisen, JeanCharles Morris. (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was unable to attend)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Caldera (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Maffel). After minor discussion to add (in the Honors Report), recognition of those who perished in the recent typhoon in the Phillippian Islands (as suggested be Comm. Caldera), the Draft Agenda was approved, as modified.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of Sept 10, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Comm. Caldera (2nd Comm. Dacumos). Without further discussion, the subject MINUTES were Approved, as Written, by majority vote.

#### Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brendan Rogers introduced himself as a City Resident and a Chief Petty Officer in the only remaining deployable Reserve unit in the Bay Area. Mr. Rogers is interested in the proceedings of the Commission and offered his support.

Mr. Carlo Garza introduced himself, a college student and also a reservist, who also wished to express support for the work of the Commission.

President Ramirez closed the Public Comment section by thanking all who attended as guests and indicating that the express purpose of an occasional change of the VAC General Meeting location was precisely to bring in some of the younger veterans who live and/or work in the city.

#### Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports

#### A. President's Report:

President Ramirez stated that it will take a continuing "word of mouth" effort to reach out to some 37k veterans living in or near the city, to introduce them to the wide variety of Veterans Services available to them in the Bay Area. He invited everyone attending to review the VAC website and see all of the activities and Services available to veterans and described therein. He closed by thanking all those who volunteered to make the Veterans Day Parade (in S.F.) such a success on Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P. Towers reported on the continuing updates that he has made on the SFVAC Website, including many new postings on the Social Media Pages (ie. Facebook, and Twitter). He announced that there is evidence of expanding public interest in the entire Website. Finally, he reported on his research on current Protocol for Veterans participating in public Pledge of Alleglance Ceremony. In describing and reading the official American Legion protocols in this area, there was significant comment and divergent input from several Commissioners. Discussion in this area closed in general recognition that there seems to be no agreed-upon "over-arching" protocol amongst several competing Veterans Agencies or Veterans Support groups, for Veterans Protocol while reciting The Pledge. Comm. Towers said he would continue research in this area, and post any new or significant findings on the subject, on the SFVAC Website. He closed with several announcements of upcoming events for Veterans (See Item 8. Announcements).

#### C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Noetzel reported on 3 items.

 STATUS of TRAMIL resignation and BOS Seat #2. Sec'y Noetzel reported that office of Supervisor Yee (Chair of Rules Committee), as confirmed that they have received the Resignation Letter of Ms. Tramil, have posted the VACANCY of Seat #2, and are seeking candidates.

2. STATUS of VAC request for Reduction of authorized positions. Sec'y Noetzel reported that despite hand-delivery

C. Secretary's Report (Continued)

of the 10/10/13 Letters from President Ramirez (to Office of Mayor, and BOS President) on this subject, and follow-up emails by the Secretary, there has been no response whatsoever from anyone in City Government on this important Issue. After considerable discussion as to the next steps to get action on this issue. President Ramirez announced that he would "take this issue on" and personally follow up with the letter recipients, and get a response from them. He promised to report back to the Commission at the next meeting with results of his personal efforts on the issue.

3. STATUS of Calif. Legislature Bill AB639, the CA Homeless Veterans Services Bill. Sec'v Noetzel reported that just prior to sending out the Advice Letter (authorized by the Commission at the October meeting), the BILL was passed by both houses of the California Legislature, and signed into law by Governor Brown, a mere 2 days after the meeting. The Advice Letter was therefore not sent.

Agenda Item 3. - Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2014 Term.

- A. Secretary Noetzel distributed copies of the current Commission By-Laws, making particular reference to Articles that provide a listing of the PRIMARY DUTIES of each elected officer. He reminded Commissioners that when they make NOMINATIOS to the various offices, they verify beforehand that the potential nominee is aware of the Duties of the Office, and is WILLING to execute such duties, if elected.
- B. President Bamirez then moved to the Nominating Process to for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SEVAC. Indicating that in accordance with the Bylaws, in addition to the current (November) meeting, NOMINATIONS for all positions will again be opened during the DECEMBER meeting, and AGAIN, for the third time, just prior to the VOTE, in the JANUARY MEETING. He started by opening the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission Secretary.

Comm. Wilkerson nominated current Secretary. Comm. Stephen NOETZEL for Secretary. Comm. Noetzel then declined the nomination, Comm. Caldera then nominated Comm. L. BURNETTE for Secretary. He accepted the nomination. After no further nominations for Secretary, Pres. RamIrez closed nominations for that position.

Pres., Ramfrez then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission Vice President. President Ramirez nominated Comm. Jordan TOWERS for V.P. Comm. Towers then declined the nomination. Comm. Burnette nominated Comm. Michael MAFFEI, He accepted the nomination, After no further nominations for V.P., Pres. Ramirez closed nominations for that position.

Pres., Ramirez then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission President. Comm. Wilkerson nominated current Comm. Stephen NOETZEL for President. He accepted the nomination. President Ramirez nominated current Comm. Jordan TOWERS for President. He accepted the nomination. After no further nominations for President, Pres. Ramfrez closed nominations for all positions until next meeting.

To Review: The current list of accepted nominations for the 2014 term is:

- For the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. L. BURNETTE
- For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. M. MAFFEI
- For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL and Comm. J. TOWERS

#### Agenda Item 4. NEW Business

A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of the

VETERANS COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER (VCMC). Co-Directors Ellison Horne and JeanCharles Morris were not present for a presentation. Comm. Caldera then announced that the Lease Agreement was currently being re-negotiated and that the viability of the VCMC was currently 'in flux'. He requested that this discussion be TABLED until next month when there should be more clarity on the issue. Pres. RamIrez then TABLED this item as requested.

#### Agenda Item 5. Old Business.

A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of a RESOLUTION in support of City Government Lawsuit to insure continuing operation of S.F. City College, thereby supporting the 1300 Veteran students attending. Comm. Noetzel reported that he and Comm. Maffel met in conference and came to agreement on the essence of a revised Resolution. Comm. Maffel then provided further detail, indicating that a new Draft Resolution will omit reference to the ongoing Lawsuit filed by the City Attorney, and concentrate more on affirmation of the efforts of City College Administrators to meet all requirements for continuing accreditation by the Accrediting Board in the hope that the school can remain opened and fully accredited so that Veterans and all students can continue their studies without disruption. A new Draft Resolution or Letter of Affirmation will be presented at the December VAC Meeting. At close of discussion, Pres. Ramirez suggested that as the new Chancellor (of SFCC) is a Veteran, perhaps a meeting could be set up so that members of the Commission could bring our concerns about continuing education for the veteran students directly to him. The matter was tabled so that Commissioners Noetzel and Maffel could make further progress.

#### Agenda Item 6 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY began with an announcement that California Assembly Bill 218 had just been signed into law by Governor Brown. While not specifically limited to Veterans, the bill prohibits requesting criminal background information on the initial employment application for local and state government employees, with the goal of reducing unnecessary barriers to employment for the one in four adult Californians who have an arrest or conviction record. As California joins nine states and over 50 cities and counties across the United States that have adopted similar legislation, more troubled veterans will have opportunity to turn their lives around, and find jobs and careers.

In Federal Legislation, she reports that HR2189 was recently passed by the House and now moves to the Senate. The Bill establishes within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) a commission or task force to: (1) evaluate the backlog of veterans disability claims, including the current process used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to evaluate claims and appeals, the applicable laws and regulations, and the appeals process; (2) analyze possible improvements to the claims process; and (3) submit to the Secretary remedies and solutions for such backlog. The bill also includes an amendment Called the FASTER FILING ACT, a cost-neutral, bipartisan bill that will accelerate VA claims turnaround times.

Comm. Weeby also reported that HR1405 was also recently passed by the House of Representatives. It is an amendment to Title 38 of the US Code which provides an immediate Appeal Process when veterans are informed of a negative decision on claims submitted.

Finally, Comm. Weeby made brief mention of legislation-in-progress in the US Senate including Senate Bill SB1558 which would require the VA to establish and Outreach Program to contact and serve veterans who may be unaware of services available to them. She noted that all of these Tracking Updates are part of the work of IAVA (Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Onmerica), a Veterans Service Organization that is heavily involved in initiation and advocacy of Federal Legislation to benefit Veterans.

Agenda Item 7 - War Memorial Veterans Building

Lead Comm. Caldera had no new items to report in this area.

#### Agenda Item 8 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://s/gov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688

- Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November: S.F. Interfaith Council Thanksglving Prayer Breakfast, Theme: "Honoring Veterans and the Faith Communities that serve them". Hotel Kabuki 1625 Post St. S.F. Details on Social Media pages of the VAC Website.
- Comm. Caldera announced that there will be a meeting of the Pride Parade Board, to consider the pros and cons of Military Recruiters at the Parade. Details to follow.
- Comm. Burnette announced that he was recently employed by the VA. As a Vocational Rehab Specialist.
- Comm. Towers announced that VAC Commissioner Dottle Guy was recently honored in the Profiles in Courage portion of the annual Swards to Plowshares Dinner.

#### Agenda Item #9 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community, and In memory of the Fillpino veterans and cltizens who died in the recent typhoon that devastated the Philippian Islands

Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 7:31pm

Minutes of the 11/12/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and Approved as written by VAC secretary Stephen S. Noetzel, and Approved as written by VAC meeting of 12/10/13.





City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 6:00pm

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding DOCUMENTS DEP

DEC -5 2013

- > Call to Order and Piedge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MiNUTES for VAC Meeting of November 12, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Eddie Ramirez to report on various issues including (but not limited to), his meeting(s) with 5.F. Government Officials regarding Commission Request to return Commission seats to the original 15 member configuration...and a RECAP of the VAC Administration Year
- B. Vice Presidents Report: Vice President Jordan Towers to report on various issues.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications.

## 3. Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2014 Term (Round 2 of 3).

- A. Secretary to REVIEW Nominations to date:
  - > For the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. L. BURNETTE
  - > For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. M. MAFFEI
- > For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL and Comm. J. TOWERS
- B. President to re-open floor for NOMINATIONS, for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, in accordance with current Bylaws. Secretary to Record all Nominations.

#### 4. NEW Business

- A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Initial DRAFT of the 2013 ANNUAL REPORT as written by V.P. Towers. in accordance with VAC Bylaws Article IV, Section 8: PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT.
- B. Discussion and Potential Action to endorse the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary <u>4-Chaplains Commemoration Event</u> in February. Commissioner J. Caldera to provide background and details.
- 5. Old Business. (Reports on ongoing issues)
  - A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding Commission support and possible endorsement of a revised RESOLUTION or Letter of Affirmation, to urge City Government to expend all effort to insure continuing operation of S.F. City College, thereby supporting the education opportunities for the 1300 Veteran students attending. (Comm. Noetzel & Maffel, Lead).

#### 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Comm. Weeby. (Lead) to report on further developments within the Legislation Committee.

#### 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Comm. Caldera, (Lead), Various Reports regarding developments in this area, (Comm. Caldera, Lead)

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 10. AJORNMENT Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email noetzelder@gmail.com or telephone 415-378-8214

This Document is Official Business of the VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION, City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official PUBLIC RECORD of the City/County of San Francisco.

## PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public records are covered under that State of California Brown Act, as well as the SUNSHINE ORDINANCE of the City of San Francisco. These acts insure that deliberations of City Business are conducted "before the people", and that City operations are open to the people's review.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

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MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

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Note to Commissioners: If you know beforehand that you will NOT be able to attend the meeting for this AGENDA, please advise Commission Secretary S. Noetzel via Telephone (415.378.8214) or Email: noetzelder@gmail.com

## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: Dec. 10, 2013

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the December Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Eduardo Ramirez at 6:09pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners. . Baldonado Burnette, Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Maffei, Noetzel, Ramirez, WIVIENTS DEAD Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (12)

Absent - UN-EXCUSED: Commissioner J. Gallager

Note: Commission strength currently at 13 active members, with a total of FOUR vacancies, (i.e. THREE Mayoral appointed and ONE (BOS Appointed).

Attending Guests: Dara Wong, Ken Eisen, Francis Balanon, Ivan Seredini

(Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was unable to attend)

FEB - 6 2014

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Wilkerson (2nd, Comm. Caldera), Without further discussion the Draft Agenda was approved, as written

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of November 12, 2013 (as written by Secretary Noetzel) made by Committed Caldera (2nd Comm. Wilkerson). Without further discussion, the subject MINUTES were Annual as Wilkerson).

#### Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no reply to a call for Public Comment

## Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

#### A. President's Report;

President Ramirez reported on his research into WHY there is little to no response from the City of San Francisco, to our Advice Letters - especially the most recent. He said he has learned that there are two reasons.

First, that our letters regarding STATE LEGISLATION MATTERS should be going directly to the State Legislation Committee, of the City/County of San Francisco, Like the SFVAC, this 7-member Committee, is set up for the express purpose of "making recommendations for endorsement, opposition, or neutrality, with respect to legislation pending before the State Legislature, that would affect the City and County." He recommended that we look into established pathways to feed our recommendations on pending State Legislation (applicable to Veterans) to and through this body, in the future.

Second, Pres., Ramirez reported on a meeting he had with Ms. Nicole Wheaton of the Office of the Mayor, with specific regard to our 10/9/13 letter to Mayor Lee, Subject: Request to RESCIND City Ordinance 245-09 thereby Restoring Commission Strength to the original fifteen members. President Ramirez reported that the view of the Office of the Mayor is that any reduction in commission size (at this point) might have the appearance of a reduction in the VOICE of Veterans and the Veterans community. President Ramirez stated that, after reflection, he agreed with this point of view, Comm. Noetzel spoke up to register his disagreement and reminded the commission that the reasons they voted to request this reduction remain valid, and that the Commission - even in its current 13-member configuration, includes ample diversity to represent a strong voce for all veterans of the City. Comm. Caldera also spoke to register his disagreement by reminding all that the Force Reduction Request we made would merely bring Commission Strength its 25-year historical level. President Ramirez closed his Report by stating that he had duly reported on responses he received with regard to these issues, and if the Commission was interested in pursing these matters further, it certainly can be accomplished in the next VAC Administrative Year.

#### B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P. Towers reported that he would reserve his comments for expression under Agenda Item 4A (below), as well as the Announcements portion of the Agenda.

#### C. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Noetzel reported that he had recently complied with a bi-annual mandate from the City Clerk, to update their official file on addresses and contact information for all sitting Commissioners. Sec'y Noetzel then inquired as to how many Commissioners had completed the On-Line Training Module on ETHICS and GOOD GOVERNMENT, and completed Certification that they had completed the Training module, Commissioners WEEBY, DACUMOS and GUY indicated that they had done so, Comm. Towers offered opinion that while the training is important, it is not an actual requirement of this Commission. He suggested that we look into a Legal Opinion on this question, to resolve the issue with clarity.

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of December 10, 2013 Page 2 of 3 A. President Ramirez re-opened the Nominating Process to for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, Starting with the position of SECRETARY. Secretary Noetzel indicated that there was one Standing Nomination for Secretary, at present, specifically, Commissioner L. BURNETTE. Pres. Ramirez then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission Secretary. After 3 calls for additional nominations, hearing none further, Nominations for Secretary were closed until the January meeting.

President Ramirez then re-opened the Nominations for the position of Vice President. Secretary Noetzel indicated that there was one Standing Nomination for Vice President, at present, specifically, Commissioner M. MAFFEI. Pres. Ramirez then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Vice President. After 3 calls for additional nominations, hearing none further. Nominations for Vice President were closed until the January meeting.

President Ramirez then re-opened the Nominations for the position of President. Secretary Noetzel indicated that there were two Standing Nominations for President, at present, specifically, Comm. S. NOETZEL and Comm. J. TOWERS. Pres. Ramirez then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of President. Comm. Maffei then nominated Comm. Ann WEEBY. She accepted the nomination.

Comm. Wong nominated current President, Comm. E. RAMIREZ. Comm. Ramirez then declined the nomination.

After no further nominations for President, Pres. Ramirez closed nominations for all positions until next meeting.

To Review: The current list of accepted nominations for the 2014 term is:

- > For the Office of VAC SECRETARY; Comm. L. BURNETTE
- For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. M. MAFFEI
- For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL, Comm. J. TOWERS, Comm. A. WEEBY

Agenda Item 4. NEW Business

- A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding initial DRAFT of the 2013 ANNUAL REPORT as written by V.P. Towers. in accordance with VAC Bylaws Article IV, Section 8: PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT. Comm. Towers reported that he was working on the subject Report, but that it was not yet complete enough to submit it in DRAFT form for the Commission to review. Sec'y Noetzel stated that he was disappointed that the DRAFT Report was not submitted at this time, and that would lead to a late submission of the eventual Report. In reply, both V.P. Towers and President Ramirez pointed out that the month of December is not over yet. President Ramirez closed the matter with the hope that the Vice President's initial DRAFT of the ANNUAL REPORT would still be distributed to the Commissioners of the VAC. before the end of December.
- B. Discussion and Potential Action to endorse the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary <u>4-Chaplains Commemoration Event</u> in Fabruary, Pres. Ramirez asked Lead Commissioner J. Caldera to provide background and details. Comm. Caldera provided a synopsis of the story elements noting that the four Chaplains aboard the torpedo-doomed Navy ship DORCHESTER, on the fateful night of 2/3/1943, were all of different faiths, yet banded together to aid troops and crew into rescue lifeboats even giving up their own life-vests in the process, before they perished. He advised that full details of the event and Memorial ceremonies are available at the website: <a href="http://www.fourchaplains.org/">http://www.fourchaplains.org/</a>. He noted that there will be a special Memorial Event at St. Mary's Cathedral, at 6pm on February 8, 2014. Comm. Dacumos indicated that she would also promote this event at the upcoming Interfaith Council Meeting. After some discussion, Comm. Burnette made a MOTION (2<sup>rd</sup>). Comm. Caldera) to formally ENDORSE this important Memorial Event, and support it fully by individual participation. The Question was called, a vote taken, and the MOTION passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Old Business.

A. Discussion and Potential Action regarding endorsement of a revised RESOLUTION, to urge City Government to expend all effort to insure continuing operation of S.F. City College, thereby supporting the education opportunities for the 1300 Veleran students attending. (Comms. Noetzel & Maffei, Lead), Comm. Noetzel opened discussion by announcing that he and co-lead Comm. Maffei had met both personally and via email, to create a mutually agreed-upon REVISED RESOLUTION on the subject. He also reported on his recent opportunity to speak directly with new SFCC Chancellor, Dr. Arthur C. TYLER, at a recent "Neet the Chancellor" meeting in Noe Valley. He reported that he advised Dr. Tyler that

the

SFVAC was currently considering a Resolution to urge both school administrators and City Government to keep CCSF opened and operating, so that veteran students and all students had full opportunity to advance and complete their studies without interruption. Chancellor Tyler said he would be gratified for passage of such a Resolution. Comm.

Noetzel

then read the revised Resolution in it's entirety, and passed out copies to all. In doing so, he also offered a MOTION (2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Maffel), that the SFVAC adopt the revised Resolution, as written. In discussion, Comm. Maffel in otted that the new resolution ormits all reference to currently active Lawsuits surrounding this issue, and in doing so it is not controversial at all – but rather affirms all effort to support continuing educational opportunities for the 1300 veterans of US Military Service at City College. After Other Description, as a College and a vote table. The motion PASSED

by majority vote and the (revised) RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE CITY EFFORTS TO KEEP CCSF OPENED & ACCREDITED is adopted as the official position of the SFVAC.

#### Agenda Item 6 - Veterans related LEGISLATION.

- LEAD Commissioner Ann WEEBY reported on Federal (Veteran's Related) legislation that is currently pending. She notes that IAVA (Iraq/Idghanistan Veterans of America) is involved in both authorship and advocacy for the passage of the following Bills at this time; those being:
  - 1. Fully fund the VA in advance HR 813 and S 932; These bills would fully fund the entire VA one year in advance. This means that when Congress is late with the budget (or shuts down the government) the VA already has its next year's budget on the books. The bill also allows the VA to plan ahead for the modernization efforts currently underway.
  - 2. Combat sexual assault in the military by passing The National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA has a robust package of reforms that would combat Military Sexual Assault, and improve the military justice system.
  - 3. Charge in-state tuition for all veterans using GI Bill HR 357 and S 944 These bills would require all schools that accept GI Bill dollars to charge the in-state tuition rate for veterans using the GI Bill. This closes a loophole where vets who (due to their military service) do not qualify as legal residents of any state, and thereby incur education costs that the GI Bill was designed to cover.
  - 4. Ratify The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This is a treaty that would establish international standards based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, to ensure that Americans with disabilities will encounter better accessibility when traveling abroad.
- Comm. Wong reported on (CA) STATE Legislation with respect to Veterans and the Veterans Community, and noted that the a VFM Report notes that during the past State Legislative term, some 45 "Veterans Bills" reached Governors office after passing both legislative houses, and that of these, Governor Brown has signed 41 (of them) into law.

#### Agenda Item 7 - War Memorial Veterans Building

Lead Comm. Caldera had left the meeting at this point however Pres. Ramirez reported that he had recently participated in "Walk-Through" tour to inspect construction progress to date. He reports that contractors have fully protected all sensitive architectural details as structural re-enforcement work continues. With removal of false ceilings many such details will be restored to the delight of future building users – including a significant restoral of warm, natural light as per original Building Design.

#### Agenda Item 8 - Announcements

Note: Most Announcements included in these Minutes are for events planned for dates far enough into the future so that they are meaningful after submission of Minutes. Announcements for "short-term" events are generally presented in postings on the VAC Facebook and/or Twitter pages. Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfqov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688

- Comm. Dacumos reported on the 11/26/13 San Francisco Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, noting that it was a great success and the theme: "Honoring Veterans and the Faith Communities that serve them" was well received.
- Pres. Ramirez reminded all that the next San Francisco Veterans Town Hall/Collaborative Meeting will be on WEDNESDAY the 18" of December, at the Burton Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Ave., (S.F.) in the CANV Room, with two sessions: 9 – 11am, and in the afternoon, from 3 – 5pm.
- Sunday, the 8th February, 2014 is the date of the San Francisco observance of the (above mentioned) FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL at 5t Mary's Cathedral. Full details available at the Memorial Website and/or American Legion-Department of California and/or the Social Media pages of the SFVAC Website.

#### Agenda Item #9 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

Pres. Ramirez presided over a Moment of Silence in memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### Agenda Item #10 - AJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned @ 7:20pm

Minutes of the 12/10/13 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Stephen S. Noetzel. and, (with minor corrections) approved unanimously at the VAC meeting of 1/14/14



City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 6:00pm

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Eduardo "Eddie" RAMIREZ, Presiding

JAN - 9 2014

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of December 10, 2013 for changes and/or Approval (Mction Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Eddie Ramirez to report on various issues including (but not limited to), Recap/Review of the VAC in 2013.
- B. Vice Presidents Report; Vice President Jordan Towers to report on various issues, including (but not limited to), Presentation of initial DRAFT of the 2013 ANNUAL REPORT as written by V.P. Towers. in accordance with VAC Bylaws Article IV, Section 8: PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT. Note: This is a Potential Action Item.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications including (but not limited to), Report on Disposition of previously passed City College Resolution.

#### 3. FINAL NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2014 Term (Round 3 of 3).

- A. Secretary to REVIEW Nominations to date:
- ➤ For the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. L. BURNETTE

  For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. M. MAFFEL
- > For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL, Comm. J. TOWERS, Comm. A. WEEBY
- B. President to re-open floor for NOMINATIONS, for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, in accordance with current Bylaws. Secretary to Record all Nominations.

## 4. NEW Business - Time allotted for CANDIDATE STATEMENTS.

- A. President Ramirez to afford equal floor time for Nominated Candidates to announce their 'Platform', or Administrative Plans, Goals, and Vision for the VAC, if elected. (Estimate 8 minutes each for contested positions).
- B. President Ramirez to administer Election of Officers by Written Ballot, for all 3 offices, including description of additional run-off vote procedures in the event of a tie. Note: Elections are by Public Ballot. President shall appoint neutral individual to read aloud each (individual) vote.
- C. President Ramirez to verify election results, then preside over formal installation of New Officers, for the 2014 Term, after which the Chair (for the balance of the meeting) will be turned over to the newly elected PRESIDENT.

#### From this point forward; Newly Elected President, Presiding

D. New Commission President to preside over Open Discussion Goals and Plans for the Commission for the 2014 term. No specific ACTION is anticipated at this point however Commissioners are urged to present their individual ideas and views in this for future consideration/implementation.

#### 5. Old Business.

A. Discussion and Potential Action on how to proceed with Commission's December of Adoption of RESOLUTION
TO ENDORSE CITY EFFORTS TO KEEP CCSF OPENED & ACCREDITED

#### 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Sitting Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation, including Potential Action in formation of a Standing Committee on Veterans Related Legislation.

#### 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Sitting Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments building construction and/or management, including Potential Action in formation of a Standing Committee on War Memorial Veterans Building.

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.
- 10. AJORNMENT\_Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary well prior to meeting, at: email neetzelder@gmail.com or telephone 415-378-8214

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S. Noetzel via Telephone (415.378.8214) or Email: noetzelder@gmail.com

## Veterans' Affairs Commission - January 14, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

Veterans' Affairs Commission - January 14, 2014

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Jan. 14, 2014

#### Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Eddie Ramirez at 6:00pm, starting with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC (IRRARY

## Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners, Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Gallagher, Guy, Maffei, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong. (12)

Absent: Comm. D. Dacumos (excused; illness)

Note: Commission strength currently at 13 active members, with a total of four vacancies, (i.e. Three Mayoral appointed and one BOS appointed).

Attending Guests: Mr. Amos Gregory

Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was also in attendance.

#### Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Caldera. Without further discussion, meeting Agenda was passed unanimously.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of December 10, 2013 (as written by Sec. Noetzel) made by Comm. Caldern (2nd Comm. Wilkerson), In discussion Comm. Wilkerson pointed out a spelling error, and Comm. Caldern requested the addition of Comm. Dacumos' reference to her commitment to advise the S.F. Interfaith. Counsel regarding the Four Chapteira Memorial Evert at St. Mary's Cardedral, at 5pm on February 8, 2014. Sec. Noetzel advised that he would insure the inclusion of the suggested changes in a corrected version of the Minutes. A vote was then taken and the Minutes for the 11/5/12, VAC meeting with suggested amendments passed unanimously.

#### Agenda item 1 - Call for public comment

1. Guest Amos Gregory, founder of the Veterans Alley Project stated that despite our endorsement of the Project there were recently some negative comments about the Project. Sec. Neetzel asked if any members of the Commission were reported to have made such comments. Mr. Gregory said he was seeking a letter of applogy from Commissioner Guy, At this point further discussion was curtailed. Sec. Neetzel closed the matter by reminding all that the SFVAC was on record as fully endorsing the Veterans' Aly Project. There was no further Public Comment.

#### Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

A. President's Report President Eddie Ramirez to report on various issues including Recap/Review of the VAC in 2013. Book on Korea and "Thanks to the Commission".

B. Vice Presidents Report Vice President Jordan Towers to report on various issues, including, presentation of initial DRAFT of the 2013 Annual Report as written by V.P. Towers.

Note: This is a Potential Action Item. Status on Annual Report: Towers makes new commitment to complete initial DRAFT by Friday, the 17th of January.

C. Secretary's Report: Sec. Noetzel to report on recent correspondence/communications including reporting on disposition of previously passed City College Resolution.

#### Agenda Item 3. - Final nominations for VAC Officers for 2014 Term (Round 3 of 3).

A President Ramirez re-opened the nominating process for each of the 3 Officer positions of the SFVAC.

starting with the position of Secretary. Secretary Noetzel indicated that there was one standing nomination for Secretary at present, Commissioner L. Burnette. Pres. Raminez then opened the floor for nominations for the office of Commission Secretary. After 3 calls for additional nominations, hearing none further, nominations for Secretary were closed.

President, a present, then ne-opened the Nominations for the position of Vice President, Secretary Noetzel indicated that there was one standing nomination for Vice President, at present, Commissioner M. Maffel. Pres. Ramirez then opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice President. After 3 calls for additional nominations, hearing none further, nominations for Vice President were closer.

President Raminez then re-opened the Nominations for the position of President, Secretary Noetzel indicated that there had been three nominations for President; Comm. S. NOETZEL, Comm. J. TOWERS, and Comm. A. WEEBY. The Secretary then informed the Commission that in a recent email to VAC Officers, Commissioner WEEBY had WITHDRAWN her nomination. Sec. Noetzel stated that her name had therefore been stricken her the ballots. Pres. Raminez thanked Comm. Weeby for her continuing service on the Commission. After 3 calls for additional nominations, hearing none further, nominations for President were closed.

To Review: Pre-printed election ballots will include the current list of accepted nominations for the 2014 term, to with

- B. For the office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. Burnette
- C. For the office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. Maffei
- D. For the office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. Noetzel, Comm. Towers

#### Agenda item 4. New Business - Candidate statements and election of the new Officers

A. President Ramirez then opened the floor to afford equal time for nominated candidates to announce their 'Platform', or

Administrative Plans, Goals, and Vision for the VAC, if elected.

B. President Ramirez then moved forward to administer a public ballot vote (as required by law) by distribution of

a pre-printed written ballot, for all 3 offices. Commissioners marked their ballots.

- C. President Ramirez tasked guest Dara Wong and City Attorney W. Snodgrass to verify election results. He then announced the voting results, as follows:
  - > For the office of VAC Secretary, Commissioner Burnette received a total of TWELVE VOTES (12),

(Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Gallagher, Guy, Maffei, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong.)

President Ramirez congratulated Comm. Burnette on his election to VAC Secretary, for the 2014 term.

> For the office of VAC Vice President, Commissioner Maffei received a total of TWELVE VOTES (12),

(Baldonado, Burnette, Caldera, Gallagher, Guy, Maffel, Noetzel, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong.)

President Ramirez congratulated Comm. Maffel on his election to VAC Vice President, for the 2014 term.

> For the office of VAC President, Commissioner Noetzel received a total of NINE VOTES (9),

(Baldonado, Bumette, Gallagher, Guy, Maffei, Noetzel, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong.)

> Commissioner TOWERS received a total of THREE VOTES (3), (Caldera, Ramirez, Towers,)

President Ramirez congratulated Comm. Noetzel on his election to VAC President for the 2014 term.

Comm. Ramirez then relinquished the Chair to newly Elected President Noetzel and staff, who presided over the balance of the meeting.

- E. President Noetzel then presided over an open discussion regarding Goals and Plans for the Commission for 2014.
- . Comm. Baldonado wants to focus on Veteran Employment alongside EDD and Comm. Burnette at the VA.
- Comm. Noetzel mentioned Veterans' Success Center needing help with lease and funding.

#### Agenda item 5 - Old Business

A. Discussion on how to proceed with Commission's December adoption of RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE CITY EFFORTS TO KEEP CSF OPENED & ACCREDITED, Agreed upon distribution to any interested parties, with the exception of printing the letter and resolution on official VAC letterhead. Letter recipients mentioned were the Mayor, BOS, CCSF Chancellor and CSP, Attorney Dennis Herema.

#### Agenda item 6 - Veterans Related Legislation

No new updates

#### Agenda item 7 - War Memorial Veterans Building

No new updates

#### Agenda item 8 - Announcement

- 23Jan Veterans Job Fair
- 24Jan LinkedIn Mentoring Event
- . Comm. Wong shared VJO mentorship and asked interested to contact Alexandrea Kay.
- . Comm. Baldonado to follow-up on SFVAC Ft. Miley signage
- Comm. Burnette invites all to assist in employment of Veterans and sharing hiring contacts. Note: Comm. Burnette is a Veteran Hiring Specialist at the VA and can be reached at office 415-489-3333.

#### Agenda item 9 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless Veterans and Veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the Veterans' and armed services' communities.

10. AJORNMENT. Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm

Minutes of the 1/14/14 VAC Meeting written by VAC Secretary Lee Burnette, and approved (after edits) by unanimous vote of the Commission at the General Meeting of March 11, 2014



## San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

> OuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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# MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 6:00pm Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA

PUBLIC LINE Commissioners Baldonado, Caldera, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Ramirez, Towers, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong Secretary Burnette, V.P. Maffei, and President Noetzel

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Approval of Current Meeting Agenda (Action Item)
- 4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2014 (Action Item)
- 5. Call for Public Comment.

## 6. Officers' Reports:

- A. President's Report President Noetzel to report on various issues including (but not limited to), an opened, transparent & Democratic VAC year, with shared respect for all. Plus report on misc. correspondence & communications.
- B. Vice President's Report Vice President Maffei to report on various issues.
- C. Secretary's Report Secretary Burnette to report on recent correspondence/communications.

## 7. Old Business

A. Commissioner Towers to present initial DRAFT of the 2013 ANNUAL REPORT. (Potential Action Item)

Discussion on potential revisions as voted by Commission, and potential ratification vote.

## 8. New Business

- A. Discussion of recent mis-application of Street Artist Vendor Fees Law exempting Veterans from such fees. (Hyperlink) (Comm. Ramirez, Lead)
- B. Discussion of Emailing Agenda, Minutes, Also the adding of Commissioner's biographies and Commission tasks on the VAC Website. (Comm. Burnette)
- 9. Veterans Related Legislation

A. Sitting Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans' legislation.

## 10. War Memorial Veterans Building

A. Sitting Commissioners invited to report on new developments building construction and/or management.

#### 11. Announcements

## 12. Honors Report and Moment of Silence

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless Veterans and Veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the Veteran's and Armed Services communities.

## 13. Adjournment

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary Lee Burnette prior to meeting at: <a href="mailto:SFVACSecretary@Gmail.com">SFVACSecretary@Gmail.com</a> or telephone 619.888.8987.

This Document is Official Business of the Veterans' Affairs Commission for the City and County of San Francisco. As such it is part of the official Public Record of the City and County of San Francisco.

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Sunshine Ordinance Task Force •

City Hall, Room 244 •

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place • San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 •

Phone: (415) 554-7724, Fax: (415) 554-5784 •

Email: sotf@sfgov.org•

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Ordinance •Task Force, at the San Francisco Public Library, and on the City's website at •http://www.sfgov.org.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS**

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm on the Second Tuesday of every month but July, and are held in City Hall Room 416.

Meeting confirmation, and specific announcement of General Meetings are made via public posting of meeting agendas as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings and archive of Meeting Minutes are available on the <u>Veterans' Affairs Commission website</u> and are also available for Public View and inspection at the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Government Information Center of the San Francisco Main Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Contact the Documents Librarian at telephone number 415-557-4472.

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## Veterans' Affairs Commission - February 11, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

Veterans' Affairs Commission - February 11, 2014

Corrected

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of Feb. 11, 2014

Call to Order

Meeting was never called to order, rather officially CANCELED at 6:25pm due to failure to achieve QUORUM

Official Attendance Record as follows:

Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance for meeting (7):

R. Burnette, J. Caldera, D. Dacumos, D. Guy, S. Noetzel, A. Weeby, R. Wong

#### Commissioners with Excused Absence (5)

R. Baldonado; Illness

M. Maffei; Travel

E. Ramirez; Calendar conflict

B. Smith; Travel

J. Towers; Not seeking re-appointment to Commission. No further attendance requirement

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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Commissioners Unexcused Absent - No Notification (2)

J. Gallagher; E. Wilkerson)

Note: Current Commission Strength: Fourteen members (14), with Three vacancies (2 Mayoral; 1 BOS appointed)

Record Certified by:

Stephen S. Noetzel, President

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission



## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Stephen S. Noetzel, Presiding

MAR 1 0 2014 SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

> Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

> ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of January 14, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment, (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

### 2. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report: President S. NOETZEL to report on various issues including (but not limited to).

- 1. Introduction and Welcome of TWO Commissioners (J. Marshall & B. Smith) recently appointed by Mayor Lee.
  - 2. Review of VAC Bylaws, Article V. "Meetings", especially Sections 5a thru 5e regarding Attendance.
  - 3. Recap of Ethics Training Class of 2/25/14 and Training Status of all sitting Commissioners.
  - 4. Correspondence & communications, including ARCHIVE REPORT on "Minutes" for canceled meeting of 2/11/14.
  - B. Vice Presidents Report: Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report on various issues.
  - C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Burnette to report on recent correspondence/communications.

#### 3. OLD Business - 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Potential Action Item: Discussion on current status of ANNUAL REPORT Submittals, including potential revisions of the DRAFT Report distributed by Pres. Noetzel, and potential Ratification vote.

#### 4. NEW Business.

- A. Discussion of recent mis-application of Street Artist Vendor Fees law exempting Veterans from such fees. (Comm. Ramirez, Lead).
- B. Discussion on potential new ways to disseminate Agendas & Minutes to reduce paper and mailing costs.

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Sitting Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

## 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Sitting Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments building construction and/or management.

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities

8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary or Commission President before the meeting. Contact info follows: Secretary: Lee BURNETTE: email <SFVACSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM> (cell) 619.888.8987 President: Stephen S. NOETZEL: email <noetzelder@gmail.com> (Cell) 415,378.8214

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#### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

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## 3 Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: March 11, 2014

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the March Meeting (of the SEVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6:01pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners: Baldonado, Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Ramirez, Smith, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (12) Absent and excused by President: Comm. J. Towers; and Comm. L. Burnette (Illness), Absent - UN-EXCUSED: Commissioner J. Gallagher

Note: Commission strength currently at 15 members, with a total of TWO vacancies, (i.e. One Mayoral appointed and One

Attending Guests: Dara Wong, Dwane Kennedy, Ian Thompson, Lucy Baldonado, Charmaine Angeles, and Latonia Dixon. (Note: City Attorney W. Snodgrass was unable to attend)

#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Ramirez (2nd, Comm. Wilkerson). Without further discussion, the meeting AGENDA, was approved by unanimous vote.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of January 14, 2014 (as written by Secretary Burnette) made by Comm. Wilkerson (2nd Comm. Dacumos). In discussion President Noetzel noted that the Draft Minutes were deficient in that the Recap of the Election of Officers did not include disclosure of how each Commissioner voted, as mandated by the CA Brown Act. He distributed a draft of revised TEXT to recap the votes, by name, VP Maffei spoke in agreement, adding a comment that his personal vote (for President), had been incorrectly listed. Comm. Maffei then made a Secondary Motion to adopt the Noetzel text revisions (2nd, Comm, Wilkerson). After minimal discussion on the added text, the Question was Called and the Commission Voted Unanimously to adopt the modifications offered by Comm. Noetzel. A vote on the Original Motion (i.e. to adopt the Draft Minutes as originally written), was unanimously defeated. The Approved Minutes, as modified. will be distributed and archived.

### Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Latonia Dixon introduced herself as Commander of American Legion Post 315 and other affiliations. She invited the Commission to publicize and attend upcoming events including:

The 3/22/14 WOMEN VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY ANNUAL LUNCHEON The 4/6/14 CHARTER MEETING of the San Francisco VETERANS LIONS CLUB

Note: Full details on above events will be posted to the Social Media pages of the SFVAC Website.

#### Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

#### A. President's Report:

- (A.1) President Noetzel began his Report with 'Thumbnail' introductions of the TWO newest members of the Commission, Namely, Commissioner R. Bruce Smith, (an Army Vet who resides in the Sunset District), and Commissioner Jeff Marshall (an Air Force Vet who resides in Noe Valley), After a welcoming round of applause, each of the new (Mayor Appointed) Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the Welcome and pledged to add their efforts to those of the Commission.
- (A.2) Next, President Noetzel raised the issue of Meeting Attendance, reviewing the unfortunate situation with regard to the cancellation of the February meeting of the VAC, due to failure to achieve a quorum. He read aloud the 'Attendance' provisions of the Commission Bylaws (Article V; Section 5, items (a), through (e), with particular emphasis on the need to notify Commission leadership of a pending absence prior to the meeting.
- (A.3) Next, President Noetzel raised the issue of ETHICS TRAINING and the need for ALL Commissioners to complete this important training on an intermittent basis; certainly within the first year after appointment to the Commission. GOVERNMENTHe then POLLED the Commission and determined the following:

Commissioners Smith, Marshall, Maffei, Wong and Noetzel (total: 5) attended and completed the 2-hour

CUMENTS DEPTEthics Training Session of 2/25/14.

Commissioners Weeby, Guy, and Dacumos (3) have completed the ONLINE Ethics Training Course within

MAY 12 2014

Commissioners Ramirez, Caldera, and Wilkerson (3) have all taken the Ethics Training Course in the past (some, multiple times).

AN FRANCISCO Commissioners Burnette, Gallagher and Towers (3) were absent – No info available. UBLIC LIBRARY Commissioner Baldonado is willing to attend a training session pending health issues.

President Noetzel ended this discussion by urging members overdue for ETHICS TRAINING, to do so via ONLINE TRAINING as it will likely be 2-years before Classroom Training is offered again.

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 11, 2014 Page 2 of 4

A. President's Report; (CONTINUED....)

- (A.4) Next, President Noetzel raised the issue of Archive Records for the canceled February VAC meeting. He distributed copies of 2 documents (he created) in lieu of actual Meeting Agenda or Meeting Minutes. Since there was no meeting, said documents will be filled in the February archive records as: February VAC AGENDA NOTES, and February VAC MINUTES NOTES. Each of the documents addresses the reason for cancellation of the meeting due to Failure to Achieve a Quorum, and provides full detail on the official February Meeting Atlendance Record.
- (A.5) Next, President Noetzel introduced an updated Commission ROSTER, and passed it around for all present Commissioners to check its accuracy regarding their own information, as a new CONFIDENTIAL ROSTER will soon be distributed (via Emailt) to all Commissioners. He noted that the Roster information will also be the

basis

for creation of new Business Cards for those needing Business cards. President Noetzel then noted that the subject ROSTER, indicates TWO current Commission Vacancies; i.e., One Mayoral appointed seat (to replace Comm. Crichlow), and one BOS Appointed seat (BOS Seat #2 – to replace Comm. Tramil). He also pointed out that Commission Terms for Commissioners Dacumos and Towers had EXPIRED on 1/31/15. President Noetzel then announced that on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, the BOS RULES COMMITTEE (Led by Supervisor YEE) would hold a HEARING to consider new appointments for ALL THREE of the available BOS Appointed seats. He noted that Commissioner Dacumos had filed an application for Re-Appointment to her current Commission Seat, but that Commissioner Twosers has DECUINED opportunity for renewed appointment. Net result is that the March 20 hearing will afford opportunity for appointment of TWO new Candidates (i.e. for BOS Seat #2, and BOS Seat #10). President urged all interested parties to attend the Nominatine Hearing and support the best available candidates for appointment.

- (A.6) Next, President Noetzel raised the issue of new Business cards for Commissioners who needed them. He announced that the Business Card ordering process has become simplified as the Office of the City Administrator has recently determined that (in the interests of privacy). City Business Cards will no longer include home addresses, but rather, the official Commission address. He also advised that new Business cards will be issued to Commissioners who now hold leadership positions, as well as those who no longer hold such positions.
- (A.7) Finally, President Noetzel announced that on Tuesday afternoon, the 25th of March, he and VP Maffei will be meeting with Ms. Nicole Wheaton of the Office of the Mayor to discuss a variety of issues that will hopefully lead to improved communications and new understandings between the VAC and the Office of the Mayor. He asked that individual Commissioners contact him via Email, if they have suggested Agenda Items for such a meetino.

B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P. Maffei announced that he had nothing additional to report.

C. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Burnette was absent due to illness. No Report.

Agenda Item 3. - 2013 Annual Report

President Noetzel began with a distribution of a 12-page version of the subject REPORT as submitted by former VP, Comm. Jordan Towers. The President expressed disappointment in the effort, pointing out that it was nothing more than a Re-Print of each of the Approved Minutes from all 11 of the 2013 Commission meetings. He pointed out that we already have all such Minutes available in the VAC Website Archive section.

President Noetzel then distributed printed copies of a 5-page ANNUAL REPORT that he had authored, and sent out to Commissioners for review, via Email on 3/12/14. President Noetzel pointed out that the REPORT that he produced includes an Executive Summary, a Section on Commission Leadership and 2013 Personnel Changes; a section on Significant Actions taken by the VAC in 2013; another Section on Ancillary Events undertaken by the Commission in 2013; a Section called - "Heading into 2014 – The New Leadership Year", and finally, the traditional Commissioners Attendance Record for 2013. Comm. Maffei made a Motion to accept and adopt the Noetzel version of the 2013 Annual Report (2<sup>nd</sup>. Comm. Guy). In discussion several spelling errors and typos were pointed out and corrected. Commissioners Ramirez and Weeby suggested minor changes or deletions to improve the report. Suggested changes were supported by all. With no further suggestions for edits, the question was called and a vote (on the acceptance Motion) was held. The vote was unanimous in favor of adopting and ratifying the subject REPORT (as modified). The 2013 ANNUAL REPORT of the SFVAC will be forwarded to the Mayor, the BOS, the general Mailing List, and entered into the Website Archive.

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 11, 2014 Page 3 of 4

Agenda Item 4. NEW Business

Commissioner Ramirez informed the Commission that the Street Artist Vendor Fees law allows those veterans who have received an honorable discharge to apply for a waiver of the fees associated with the application for a Street Artist

Vendor

permit.

B. Discussion of potential new ways to disseminate Agendas & Minutes to reduce paper waste and mailing costs. President Noetzel polled all Commissioners on how they would prefer to receive future minutes for VAC meetings. Commissioner Baldonado indicated that his email suffers from a virus, and that a mailed hard copy would be preferred.

Additionally, although copies may be emailed to commissioners ahead of time, Sunshine Ordinance mandates that hard copies must be provided at the meeting, for members of the public to review. All other Commissioners indicated a preference to receive all documents via Email.

#### Agenda Item 5. Veteran Related LEGISLATION.

- A. Commissioner Wong sent an email, entitled "VFW Legislative Report," which lists the concerns raised by 4 of the largest Veterans Service Organizations (AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.) regarding the President's proposed budget for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The proposed budget is approximately \$2.7 billion less than what Veterans groups are suggesting is an appropriate level of funding.
- B. Commissioner Weeby informed the Commission that she will continue her work with IAVA (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America) and the program "Storm the Hill" which will take place the week of March 22 28, in Washington, DC. During that time, members of IAVA will lobby legislators and raise issues pertinent to Veterans. Commissioner Weeby participated in the event last year, and found it to be extremely helpful. She will report back to the Commission at next month's meeting regarding the program.
- B. Commissioner Dacumos encouraged all members of the Commission to write their Supervisor about what steps the Board of Supervisors can take with regard to the issue of homelessness among Veterans. She informed the Commission that approximately 1 in 4 Veterans in San Francisco is homeless. She suggested that the Commissioners write asking for the Board of Supervisors to hold Town Hall Meetings on this issue. She also mentioned that Supervisor Mark Farrell is ever receptive to Veterans issues and is taking the lead on the BOS regarding the homelessness issue in San Francisco.
- Commissioner Guy also echoed Commissioner Dacumos with regard to Supervisor Farrell's stance on homelessness in San Francisco.

Agenda Item 6 - War Memorial Veterans Building

Commission President Noetzel provided the Commission with a copy of a letter dated Feb 1, 2014, from Nelson Lum, Chairman of the American Legion War Memorial Commission to the Legion membership, and for public distribution. The letter reviews "important developments" regarding the space allocation for Veterans use of the War Memorial Veterans Building on completion of the retrofit construction (some time in 2015). The most significant of these 'developments' is the fact that the ALWMC has now retained a Law Firm (DLA Piper) to register objection to the Space Allocation Plan put forth by the Board of Trust of the War Memorial Buildings. A final attempt to negotiate a fair Space Allocation Veterans use (in the Veterans Building) is now underway.

#### Agenda Item 7 - Announcements

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page. Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfqov3.org/index.aspy?page=1688

- March 20, from 6pm-9pm, there will be a panel at San Jose City Hall, entitled "Servicewomen Come Marching Home," with Commissioner Guy serving as one of the panel members.
- March 21, at 5PM. Intuit will host a "Vets in Tech" networking event.
- March 22, from noon to 3pm, the WOMEN VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY ANNUAL LUNCHEON at 678 Portola, San Francisco. Event is produced by AMVETS. Contact Latonia Dixon at oshun45@gmail.com

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of March 11, 2014 Page 4 of 4

Agenda Item 7 - Announcements .....(Continued)

- March 26, from 9-11 and 3-5, at 450 Golden Gate, in the Arizona Room, the SF Veterans Town Hall Collaborative will meet. This is a recurring event, which meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month for the rest of the year. Commissioner Ramirez hosts this event, which seeks to bring together Veterans who need assistance, and the Veterans Service Providers who can assist them.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> Starting 5pm at the United Irish Cultural Center, the CHARTER NIGHT DINNER event to install officers of the newly formed San Francisco VETERANS LIONS CLUB (\$50. Ticket) Contact Latonia Dixon at oshun45@qmail.com

Agenda Item #8 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence:

In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

Agenda Item #9 - AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 7:25pm

Minutes of the 3/11/14 VAC Meeting written by S. Noetzel and M. Maffei, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (after corrections and minor modifications) at the VAC Meeting of 4/8/14

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Stephen S. Noetzel, Presiding

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of March 11, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).
- 2. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report: President S. NOETZEL to report on various issues including (but not limited to).
    - > Introduction and Welcome of TWO new Commissioners, Recently appointed by the BOS, namely; Comm. Angela JENKINS (appointed to BOS Seat #2, replacing Comm. J. Towers), and Comm. Dwane KENNEDY (appointed to BOS Seat #10, replacing Comm. M. Tramil).
    - Misc. Correspondence & communications.
    - Communication difficulties with VAC Secretary
    - B. Vice Presidents Report: Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report on (but not limited to). Recap of 3/26 meeting with Nicole Wheaton of Mayor Lee staff.
    - C. Secretary's Report: Sec'y Burnette to report on recent correspondence/communications.
- 3. Commission GOALS and PLANS.
- GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION: Individual Commissioners to submit & discuss potential GOALS for balance of 2014. OCUMENTS DEPT
- 4. OLD Business (none outstanding)
  - A. Formulation of 'Work Groups' to do background research on VAC issues.

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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

- 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.
  - Sitting Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.
- 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
  - Sitting Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments building construction and/or management.
- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### 10. AJORNMENT

5. NEW Business.

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#### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the SECOND TUESDAY of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 416 in CITY HALL

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5th Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

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## Veterans' Affairs Commission - April 8, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

Veterans' Affairs Commission - April 8, 2014

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: APRIL 8, 2014

#### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the April Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6.00pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners: Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Jenkins, Kennedy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Ramirez, Smith, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (13)

Absent – Excused: Comm. R. Baldonado, Illness

Absent UN-EXCUSED: Commissioners L. Burnette, and J. Gallagher
Note: Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.
Attending Guests: Dara Wong, Jordan Towers, Nelson Lum.
Note: Them was no City Attending in attendance.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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#### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Maffei, (2nd, Comm. Guy). After minimal discussion, the meeting AGENDA, was approved by unanimous vote.

#### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of March 11, 2014 (as written by VP Maffei, and President Noetzel), made by Comm. Caldera (2nd Comm. Ramirez). In discussion, Comm. Caldera raised an issue with regard to text reporting Agenda Isten 2, (A3) regarding Ethics Training requirements. Comm. Ramirez suggested a mirror text deletion. After some discussion, Minutes authors Noetzel & Maffei agreed to modify the text regarding Ethics Training Requirements as proposed by Commissioners Caldera and Ramirez. A vote was then taken on approval of the Minutes, as modified. It passed, unanimously.

At this point, Comm. Ramirez made a Motion (Second, Comm. Weeby), which would mandate that future publication of the Commission Minutes should not include either bold letx, or color text. After some discussion on style and publication preference, the Question was Caladi. In the ensuing yote, the motion carried, (10 Yea, 2 Abstain, 1 Nay) with Commissioners Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Jenkins, Kennedy, Ramirez, Smith, Weeby, Wilkerson and Wong yoting for the style change, Commissioners Maffei and Marshall in abstention, and Comm. Noetzel, against. Future Minutes will be published without the use of bold, (other than Subject Headmap), or colors.

#### Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Commissioner Jordan Towers spoke to express his appreciation for the work of the entire Commission, during his tenure, and expressed his hope for a productive future for the Commission.

#### Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

#### A. President's Report;

(A.1) President Noetzel began his Report with Thumbnall introductions of the TWO newest members of the Commission, Namely, Commissioner A. Jenkins, (an Air ForceArmy Vet who resides in SF District 10). After a welcoming round of applicate, each of the new (BOS Appointed) Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the Welcome and pledged to add their efforts to those of the Commission.

[A2] Next. President Noetzel raised the issue of his attempts to communicate with the VAC Secretary. Commissioners Ramirez and Maffei agreed to work tooether to resolve the issue.

#### B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Haffei reported on a 3/2514 meeting with Ms. Nicole Wheaton of the Office of Mayor Lee, attended by himself and President Noetzel. Five issues were discussed. First, the lopic of reducing the Commission's size was deemed moot based on the recent appointments to the board. Second, the commissioner discussed possible hanges to the ethics training. Thirth, the commissioner discussed possible negotation strategies regarding the Veterina War Memorial Building. Fourth, there was a discussion regarding responses to official commission letters to the Board of Supervisors. Finally, there was a discussion on the coassibility of the commission bolding hearings on a perfect tools:

#### C. Secretary's Report;

No report. Secretary absent (illness).

#### Agenda Item 3. - Commission GOALS and PLANS

President Noetzel started by asking assembled Commissioners if they had formulated any responses to his request for specific GOALS and PLANS suggestions, for the Commission, for the balance of the year.

- Comm. Caldera brought up the subject of "Time and Place" of the VAC meetings, suggesting that the current Commission Roster' might have new opinion(s) on
  when and where we should meet. He also commented on that it is unfortunate and disturbing that there is no City Attorney present at far too many of the General
  Meetings of the Commission.
- o Comm. Kennedy suggested that VAC should submit Advice Letters to City only after issue us fully researched, documented, and submitted: "Legislation Ready".
- · Comm. Weeby suggested that the issue of Mental Health in the Veterans Community is critical, and deserving of attention by this Commission.
- Comm. Ramirez, who works in Mental Health and is tasked to do Mental Health Summit meetings, suggested that the VAC should be focal point for all vets in SF –
  especially in this critical area. He noted a May 12 & 13 event, and Mental Health Summit in August. (See Announcements, Agenda Item #8).
- Comm. Dacumos mentioned new studies that point to Early Onset Dementia now apparent with Vets. When added to PTSD, this is a huge complicator in Mental
  Health issues. She suggests that if the Commission wants to develop valid advice in this area, we need to actually get into the community, attend Glide Memorial
  activities; wild the temderion, and visit the San Brano (Jail) Pod.
- © Comm. Jenkins spoke of the connection between Mental Health Needs, and Veteran's Court.
- Coronia Ramirez gave background on some of the services of the (new) Veterans Court.
- Current Culdera suggested that since the VAC Charter includes provision for Holding Hearings, perhaps the possibility of a future HEARING (possibly in conjunction with the City Dept. of Montal Health), on Montal Health issues within the Veterans Community, might be a valid Commission Goal.

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erans' Affairs Commission - April 8, 2014 - Meeting Minutes | Vete... http://sfgov.org/vets/veterans-affairs-commission/meeting/2014-april-

President Noetzel then addressed several potential ways that the Commission might move forward with a number of these excellent Commission Goals. He introduced the idea of the PASSIVE MEETING BODY, (as suggested by Ms. Nicole Wheaton of the Mayor's Office). A Passive Meeting Body is an informal "Issue Research Team" consisting of two commissioners working together to research an issue, which, when fully developed, would then be proposed to the orities band for action.

President Noetzel and VP Maffei pointed out that Ms. Wheaton clearly suggested that the likelihood of a positive reply to submittal of an Advice Letter is directly proportional to the level of Development of the issue, when presented. In further discussion it was generally agreed that a new Advice Letter Strategy should be implemented. The New Strategy would require that further Advice Letters (to Mayor and BOS), should include full research, full development, even suggested draft of legislation to bring to BOS for implementation.

Commissioner Raminez then added a suggestion for one final Commission Goal; that being the Study and Development of a (rew) City Department or 'agency' titled: THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, of the City and Courty of San Francisco. He suggested that since the City of Los Angelos implemented with an Agency, the issues of Veterans and the Veterans Community (in that City), have become much more visible to City Government, and, as a result, they have become more responsive to "Veterans Community" issues. Comm. Raminez suggested that if such an 'Agency' were initiated (by Charter Legislation) within San Francisco, it would gain responsibility and oversight of the Courty Veterans Services and Veterans community issues and bodies in the City, thereby enabling ultimate implementation of the 'One-Slop-Shop' for Veterans Services, that Comm. Ramirez has been advocating for a very loss time — With the WM Memodal Velerans Busines in social.

Commissioner Kennedy then made a short presentation about how the current public discussions regarding Private Community Transportation Busses (pka: The Google bull sizes) has impact on the Veterans Community. He pointed out that the traditional Free bus Shuttle, for veterans needing transport of the VA Campus at Ft Mely – has somehow (mistikenry) become enveloped in the controversy. He suggested that a clear distinction must be drawn – to separate brig established and critical VA related Transportation Services, from the ongoing "Tech Bus" controversy. He suggested that he would be willing to research some potential action for resolution of this unfortunate issue.

#### Agenda Item 4. OLD Business - (none outstanding)

#### Agenda Item 5. NEW Business. Formulation of 'Work Groups' to do Research and Development of VAC issues.

- After full discussion on Commission Goals and Plans (item 3, above), President Noetzel suggested the formation of a STANDING COMMITTEE, on VETERANS
  MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. He asked Comm. Ramirez to Chair the Committee. After Comm. Ramirez accepted Chairmanship, four additional Commissioners
  volunteered to participate as Committee Members; those being Commissioners Dacumos, Guy, Smith, and Weeby. The 5-Member Committee on Veterans Mental
  Health Services will make its initial Report at the next VAC Meeting.
- On the (new) issue of Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, President Noetzel suggested formation of a Passive Body Research Team, to research how the 'agency' was developed in Los Angeles, and the possibilities of replication in San Francisco. Commissioner Marshall volunteered to serve on successful a learn, as did Vice President Maffel. They were officially sanctioned as a Passive Body Research Team for that issue, and well Report their progress in future meetings.
- On the issue of Protection of Veterans Transportation Services President Neetzel appointed Comm. Kennedy as Lead Commissioner to further research this issue, develop suggestions for solution, and report back to the Commission at future meetings.

#### Agenda Item 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

> Comm. Ann Weeby, recounted her week in Washington D.C. lobbying with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) as part of Storm The Hill. Comm. Weeby started by pointing out that two of her clients were lost to suicide during the past year and that immediate action is required to stern the rate of 22 veteran suicides per day.

A bill is currently in the Senate to directly support IAVA's Campaign to Combat Suicide: SAV Act S. 2182 A bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other ourcoses.

President Notice! then spoke about the need to support CA Prop 41, which will be on the San Francisco June 3, 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION ballot. This important Veterans Housing inliative has already been passed by the California Legislature and signed by the Governor. Because its purpose is to re-direct use of funds previously authorized and soft of inflative, utilization changes must also be authorized in all power amplifying 15 the devices. Prop 4 in effectives some SGO million of previously authorized (and unspert) bond funds, to construct and rehabilitate housing and affordable transitional housing, for California's large population of Homeless veterans. Best of all – it does not make such. The President will offer a Commission Resolution in succord to passage of Prop 41 at the nat/VC meetro.

#### Agenda Item 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Guest Nelson Lum, President of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, provided a history of the major developments in the construction, administration, and historic usage of the WMVB.

#### Agenda Item 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page.

Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: http://sfgoy3.org/index.aspx?page=1688

April 23, from 9-11 and 3-5, at 450 Golden Gale, in the Arizone Room, the SF Veterans Town Hall Collaborative will meet. This is a recurring event, which meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month for the rest of the year. Commissioner Ramirez hosts this event, which seeks to bring together Veterans who need assistance, and the Veterans Service Providers who can assist them.

May 12—13-2014. The Veterans Administration Office of Mental Health Operations (OMHO) will be visiting the S. F. VA Medical Center at Ft. Miley. They seek input on how VA services in Mental Health area are working in our area. To volunteer to be interviewed to relate the experiences of yourself and/or family in this context, contact Interview Coordinator Eduatric Ramiez, NOTE: Event PoSTPONED... To Be RESCHEDULED.

Monday, May 26, 2014 is the date of the annual MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE EVENT at the Presidio. The "Honor and Remember" proceedings this year will be in commemoration of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War. Event starts with a Grand March, at 10.30am. Full details available from the San Francisco National Cemetery website, at www.presidio.go.

August 27th, 2014 is the (tentative) date of the Veterans Administration Mental Health Summit (in conjunction with the August Town Hall Collaborative meeting).

Agends Item 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### Agenda Item 10. AJORNMENT Meeting adjourned @ 7:58pm

Minutes of the 4/8/14 VAC Meeting written by S. Noetzel and M. Maffei, and approved, as amended, at the VAC Meeting of 5/13/14

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco CA 94102

## Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Stephen S. Noetzel, Presiding

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> Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

> ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

> REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)

> REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of April 8, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)

1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report; President S. NOETZEL to report on various issues including (but not limited to). Misc. Correspondence & communications.

B. Vice Presidents Report: Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report.

C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Burnette to report.

#### 3. OLD Business - Committee Reports

- A. Progress Report from the newly established Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair).
- B. Progress Report from the newly established Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, (Commissioners Marshall and Maffei),
- C. Progress Report from Comm. B. Kennedy (lead Commissioner) on issue of Protection of Veterans Transportation Services.

### 4. NEW Business.

- A. Presentation of program: "The Mission Continues" (by Ryan Cahill & Rosie Brown as introduced by Comm. A. Weeby). Presentation followed by discussion and Potential Vote to support the Mayor's office hosting Mission Continues
- B. Report by Comm. Weeby: Golden Gate Parks Conservancy builds a trail behind Fort Miley on National Trail's Day. Presentation followed by discussion and Potential Vote to endorse the new Veteran's Trail
- C. Development of SOLDIERS PLAZA at Presidio, Comm. Ramirez, Lead. Discussion and Potential Action.
- D. Advocacy in support of CA Prop 41, on the 6/12/14 Ballot, Pres, Noetzel to submit Resolution in Support, for discussion and Potential Action to adopt.

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

#### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments building construction and/or management.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities

8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary or Commission President before the meeting. Contact info follows: Secretary: Lee BURNETTE: email <SFVACSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM> (cell) 619.888.8987 President: Stephen S. NOETZEL: email <noetzelder@gmail.com> (Cell) 415.378.8214

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## Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: May 13, 2014

Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the May Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6:00pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners: Burnette, Caldera, Gallagher, Guy, Jenkins, Kennedy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Ramirez, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (13) Absent – Excused (3) Comm. R. Baldonado, Illness, Comm. D. Dacumos, Travel, Comm. B. Smith, Travel. Attending Guests: D. Wong. Note 1: City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass dia arrive at the meeting during the proceedings. Note: 2 Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.

Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda, as written, made by Comm. Weeby, (2nd, Comm. Kennedy). After minimal discussion, the meeting AGENDA, was approved by all, save one Abstention (Comm. Caldera).

Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of April 8, 2014 (as written by VP Maffel, and President Noetzel), made by Comm. Maffel (2nd Comm. Kennedy). In discussion, Comm. Caldera recalled that during the April meeting, he raised the issue of the unfortunate lack of presence of an observer/advisor from the Office of the City Attorney, for several of the past VAC meetings. V.P. Maffei agreed to author a short revision of the April Minutes to include Comm. Caldera's concerns in this area. The Question was called and a vote was taken for approval of the 4/8/14 VAC Meeting Minutes, as amended. All Commissioners voted YEA, save Comm. Ramirez who abstained. The 4/8/14 Minutes are Approved, as amended.

### Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

A. President's Report:

President Noetzel began his Report with a review of the Transmittal of Meeting Documents (i.e. Draft Agenda and Draft Minutes as above). He stated that he he never received an Email transmitting these documents from the Commission Secretary, but rather received them second-hand from another Commissioner. He asked how many Commissioners had received the current from the secretary. Only three Commissioners indicated that they had received the documents. No one else had received them. Sec'y Burnette offered that he had attempted to send than out, but that there had been some sort of "giltch" in the process. After some discussion in attempt to verify individual email addresses Sec'y Burnette said he believed he had discovered the cause of the 'lost emails' and assured everyone that he would correct the problem, and that future email distribution would be handled efficiently and timely. President Noetzel then distributed copies of the current Agenda and copies of the April Minutes to all who had not received them.

President Noetzel then distributed copies of the Flyer for the upcoming Memorial Day event at the Presidio, on Monday the 26th of May, and urged all to attend if possible.

President Noetzel then announced that he will not be attending the June VAC meeting as he will be on vacation; however VP Maffei would preside at the June meeting and he further expressed confidence that the Commission would move forward with an active and productive Agenda at the 6/10/14 meeting in his absence.

B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Maffei announced that he had nothing to report this month.

C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Burnette announced that he had nothing to report this month.

Agenda Item 3. OLD Business

A <u>REPORT from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services</u>. Committee Chair Ramirez responded and asked each committee member to give additional individual reports. Commissioners Weeby and Guy reported extensively on research that they were compiling in this area. Comm. Ramirez urged that the VAC should 'partner' with the VA in this area and 'piggy-back' off his monthly Town Hall Collaborative meetings. He offered a MOTION to seek VAC endorsement and support for a Mental Health Summit Meeting (hosted by the Veterans Administration) and tentatively scheduled for the 27th of August Pres. Noetzel pointed out that such an Action Motion was not possible at this meeting as the subject item was not on the published Agenda; but that it could be on the Agenda for the June VAC meeting. Comm. Ramirez stated that he would certainly follow-up on this, and verify the time/date of the Health Care Summit in plenty of time for action at the June VAC meeting.

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 13, 2014 Page 2 of 3

A. Agenda Item 3 - Old Business: (i.e. Committee Reports - CONTINUED....)

To close out this Report, Commissioners Ramirez and Guy invited all to visit a "gathering" tonight - of veterans interested in working together on the Mental Health Care issues of Veterans and families, at the Golden Gate Tap Room (2525 Sutter St. @ Powell).

- B. REPORT from Research team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Commissioners Maffei and Marshall provided a report that included use of Visual Media Presentation of the Website of the existing Los Angeles County Department of Veterans Affairs, They have taken the initiative to contact Ms. Stephanie Stone, Director of Los Angeles County Department of Veterans Affairs, and are planning a tele-conference (in the near future) to gain advice and information on the LA. Agency as a potential "modef" for creation of a similar City Department in San Francisco. The website depicted showed how the LA Department serves as a kind of "Umbrella Agency" to facilitate joint-participation of a host of Veteran-related agencies and services including areas such as Military Records, Housing, Employment, Health Services, etc. To close out this Report, Commissioners Maffei and Marshall assured the Commission that their research into the potential of Establishment of a new San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs, would continue and that they will report further progress in future VAC meetings.
- C. REPORT on issue of Protection of Veterans Transportation. Lead Commissioner Kennedy provided full background on an unfortunate situation whereby busses operating in San Francisco on contract to the VA to transport veterans, and VA employees/volunteers to and from various VA facilities in the city, are now being "caught-up" in the protests, demonstrations, and harassment of similar charter busses transporting "high-tech" employees to and from their jobs. Comm. Kennedy has prepared an Information Packet, which depicts the situation in photos and other media/news reports. The packet includes a 2-part Recommendation for Action that he would like the Commission to support. President Noetzel asked that this issue be included on Agenda for the June VAC meeting as an Action Item, and VP Maffei (who will preside at that meeting) agreed to work with Comm. Kennedy on creation of a formal Letter or Resolution fon this matter for adoption at the June VAC meeting.

Agenda Item 4. NEW Business.

- A. Presentation of the Program "The Mission Continues" (Potential Action Item on Agenda). Commissioner Weeby reported that guests Ryan Cahill and Rosie Brown, were unable to appear this evening to make their planned presentation so she proceeded with an Overview of of "The Mission Continues", explaining that the program started in 2007 by a Navy Vet who sought to find ways to "Continue the Mission" by offering Service to Community on his return to civilian life. The program is set up as a certified Non-Profit and features a 6-month Community Fellowship program whereby Veterans provide specific public-service "missions". Comm. Weeby reports that one such Mission includes a concept to have up to five (5) qualified veterans work as interns in various offices of the City Hall of San Francisco. After some very positive discussion on the program potential Comm. Weeby offered a MOTION seeking formal VAC support for this program (2nd by Comm. Gallagher). The MOTION included VAC support and advocacy for the Mayor to find service positions for up to five 'Fellows' to work in City Hall under the formal Mission Continues program. A vote was taken and the Motion passed unanimously. Comm. Weeby will follow up by writing an Advice Letter (regarding Commission advocacy for the program) for signature by Acting President Maffei as soon as is practicable.
- B. Concent of a "VETERANS TRAIL" proposed for development at It. Miley (Potential Action Item on Agenda). Commissioner Weeby reported that the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is considering development of a new hiking trail on the outskirts of Ft. Miley to be formally presented on National Trail Day (67/14), as the VETERANS TRAIL. The new hiking trail would essentially connect the Ft Miley VA facility, to the nearby Legion of Honor. It would be constructed under ADA standards via volunteer labor, including, hopefully, a high percentage of volunteer work by area veterans. After supervive discussion Comm. Weeby offered a MOTION (2nd, Comm. Guy) to "Endorse and partner with the GG Nat1 Parks Conservancy in advocacy for development of the subject VETERANS TRAIL". A vole was taken and the Motion passed unanimously. Comm. Weeby will follow up by writing an Advice Letter (regarding Commission advocacy for the program) for signature by Acting President Maffei as soon as is practicable.
- C. <u>Development of a SOLDIERS PLAZA in the Presidio of San Francisco.</u> (Potential <u>Action Item</u> on Agenda). Note: Though on the Agenda for Potential Action, this item was inadvertently and unfortunately overlooked by President Noetzel during the proceedings. It was brought up again at the end of the meeting by Lead Commissioner Ramirez. President Noetzel offered-to go back to the item for presentation by Comm. Ramirez, but he declined, stating that he would just as soon bring it up again as an Agenda item for the June meeting. He promised to forward to Commissioners, an Email which would provide full background information on the proposed Soldiers Plaza, in the Presidio.
- D. <u>Commission Advocacy for passage of Proposition 41, on the June 2014 ballot</u>. (Potential <u>Action Item</u> on Agenda). President Noetzel opened this Item by distributing and reading aloud a draft Resolution that he had written on the subject. It included 5 background of Prop 41, and ended with a resolution (that):
- b background whereas' statements that reviewed the background of Prop 41, and ended with a resolution (may improve a "...the Commission advises all patriotic San Franciscans to cast their ballot in support of this important measure, as passage of Proposition 41 will result in construction of affordable, supportive, and transitional housing for homeless and near-homeless California Veterans without raising taxes." To initiate discussion on the matter, Comm. Kennedy offered a MOTION to adopt the Resolution and forward it, with cover letter, to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, (2nd by Comm. Maffe).

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of May 13, 2014 Page 3 of 3

A. Agenda Item 4 - New Business: Resolution on Prop 41 - CONTINUED....)

In discussion, Comm. Ramirez asked City Attorney Snodgrass if there was not an established process for Commissions to advocate for passage of legislation. Attorney Snodgrass stated that there well might be such a process, but Commissions had every right to

pass Resolutions that advocate passage of any legislation or ballot Proposition, that might further the mission and ideals of said Commission.

President Noetzel also addressed the Ramirez objection by pointing out that this was not a Resolution in support of legislation, as the State Legislature had already passed legislation in favor of this measure, but it was now before the electorate because voter approval of re-allocation of funds approved by ballot must also be passed by majority vote. Finally, Pres. Noetzel pointed out that the election was only weeks away, and submittal via the Legislature Advocacy process would take far too long.

In further discussion several minor changes to improve the text and style of the Noetzel Draft Resolution were offered by Commissioners Maffei and Kennedy and Burnette. These were all gratefully accepted by Resolution author Noetzel, and eventually the Question was called and a vote was taken. The motion passed with all yea votes, no nays, and Comm. Ramirez abstaining. President Noetzel will forward the Resolution, as modified, with Transmittal Letter, to all appropriate addressees.

#### Agenda Item 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

President Noetzel invited Commissioners to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans related Legislation. There were no Reports or comments in this area.

#### Agenda Item 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

President Noetzel invited Commissioners to Report on report on new developments in space allocation and/or construction issues with respect to the W.M. Veterans Building. There were no Reports or comments in this area.

#### Agenda Item 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Note: Many of the announcements cited below have further information and details on the VAC Facebook page.

Click Facebook icon (and Twitter icon) on the homepage, of the SFVA website, at: <a href="http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688">http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=1688</a>

Numerous announcements were made by various Commissioners regarding events of potential interest to Veterans, happening within the next four weeks. President Noetzel encouraged all those making such announcements to discuss them with Comm. Marshall and/or Guy, to get them on the Social Media pages of the SFVAC website. There were no announcements of events for dates beyond the publication date of these Minutes.

Agenda Item 8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence; In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### Agenda Item 9. AJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned @ 7:58pm

Minutes of the 5/13/14 VAC Meeting written by S. Noetzel, and Approved, by unanimous vote at the S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission General Meeting of August 12, 2014

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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## Veterans' Affairs Commission - June 10, 2014 - Meeting Agenda

Veterans' Affairs Commission - June 10, 2014

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco
Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051
San Francisco, CA 94102

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA Vice-President Michael Maffel, Presiding

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of May 13, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report; No Report. President Noetzel traveling.

B. Vice Presidents Report; Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report.

C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Burnette to report.

#### 3. OLD Business - Committee Reports

- A. Report from Comm. B. Kennedy (lead Commissioner) on issue of Protection of Veterans Transportation Services. **Discussion and Potential Action on** proposal(s) submitted.
  - B. Progress Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair).
  - C. Progress Report from Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Commissioners Marshall and Maffei).

#### 4. NEW Business.

- A. Discussion and Research into Issue of proliferation of "Bad Paper" Discharges, and potential for establishment of new Review Process. Comm. Maffei, Lead.
- B. Development of SOLDIERS PLAZA at Presidio. Comm. Ramirez, Lead. Discussion and Potential Action.
- C. Discussion of recent mental health issues related to the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Comm. Dacumos, Lead.

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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## Veterans' Affairs Commission - June 10, 2014 - Meeting Agenda

Veterans' Affairs Commission - June 10, 2014

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

#### 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; No Report. President Noetzel traveling.
- B. Vice Presidents Report; Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Burnette to report.

#### 3. OLD Business - Committee Reports

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  - C. Progress Report from Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Commissioners Marshall and Maffel).

#### 4. NEW Business.

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- C. Discussion of recent mental health issues related to the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Comm. Dacumos, Lead,

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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eterans' Affairs Commission - June 10, 2014 - Meeting Agenda | Veter... http://sfgov.org/vets/veterans-affairs-commission/meeting/2014-june-

#### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments building construction and/or management.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities

8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Commission Secretary or Commission President before the meeting.

Contact info follows:

Secretary: Lee BURNETTE: email <SFVACSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM> (cell) 619.888.8987

President: Stephen S. NOETZEL: email <noetzelder@gmail.com> (Cell) 415.378.8214

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## Veterans' Affairs Commission - June 10, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

Veterans' Affairs Commission - June 10, 2014

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: June 10, 2014

#### MEETING CANCELLED - NO Call to Order

At Approximately 6:20pm, Vice President Michael Maffei (who was scheduled to preside), recognized that appropriate Public Notice (for the meeting) had not been posted as required by law. He then officially CANCELED the meeting and dismissed with apology, all who attended.

Official Meeting Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: (10)

Commissioners: Baldonado, Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Maffei, Ramirez, Smith, Weeby, Wilkerson, and Wong

Absent - Excused (4):

Comm. Jenkins (Personal)

Comm. Kennedy (Personal)

Comm. Marshall (Personal)

Comm. Noetzel (Travel)

Absent - Un-Notified (2)

Comm. Burnette

Comm. Gallagher

Note 1: Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.

Note 2: This 'Cancelled Meeting Notice' written (in lieu of Meeting Minutes),

by VAC President, Stephen S. Noetzel

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Stephen S. Noetzel, Presiding

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of May 13, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

### 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report: President Noetzel to report: "Where we are" also (new) Mayor's Policy on Commissioner Attendance.
- B. Vice Presidents Report; Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Burnette to report.

#### 3. NEW Business.

- A. <u>DISCIPLINARY ACTION ITEM.</u> Discussion and Potential Action to review and resolve situation of malfeasance and Failure to Perform Job Duties by Commission Secretary; including potential appointment of Temporary Acting Secretary.
- B. Discussion and Research into issue of proliferation of "Bad Paper" Discharges, and potential for establishment of new Review Process. Comm. Maffei, Lead.
- C. Development of SOLDIERS PLAZA at Presidio. Comm. Ramirez, Lead. Discussion and Potential Action.

#### 4. OLD Business - Committee Reports

- A. Report from Comm. B. Kennedy (lead Commissioner) on issue of Protection of Veterans Transportation Services.

  Discussion and Potential Action on proposal(s) submitted.
- B. Progress Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair).
- C. Progress Report from Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Commissioners Marshall and Maffei).

#### 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

#### 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Guest Paul Cox (a member of the American Legion War Memorial Commission Legal Action Team) will report on status of potential Legal Action to secure appropriate Space Allocation for Veterans and Veterans Services in building after retrofit.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities

8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

#### 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify Commission President S. Noetzel prior to the meeting. Email <noetzelder@gmail.com> (Cell) 415.378.8214

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wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.



# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: Aug. 12, 2014

### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the August Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6:00pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Ca

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners: Baldonado, Caldera, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Jenkins, Kennedy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Ramirez, Smith, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (15) Absent: Un-Excused (1) Commissioner L. Burnette.

Attending Guests: Brad Adams, Paul Cox, Roger Dong. City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also present. Note: Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda was made by made by Comm. Baldonado, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Wilkerson. After minimal discussion, the meeting AGENDA, was unanimously approved

# Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of May 13, 2014 (as written by President Noetzel), made by Comm. Maffel (2nd Comm. Guy). Without further discussion a vote was taken and the subject Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

# Agenda Item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Commissioner Angela Jenkins reported on her attendance at a recent symposium regarding the Port Chicago Disaster and the contribution of black sailors.
- B. Guest Roger Dong, Executive Director of the Veterans Success Center (VSC) provided an update on recent activities of the Veterans Success Center. A Memorandum of Understanding is pending and it is expected that the relocation of the Success Center to 801 Turk Street relocation will occur during the month of August. Mr. Dong indicated that there were over 1,000 jobs available to Veterans that need to be filled and he encouraged VAC Commissioners and their networks to get the word out.

# Agenda Item 2 - Officers Reports

# A. President's Report;

President Noetzel began his Report by distributing a copy of the Mayor's new Policy on Commissioner Attendance at Commission meetings. It essentially mandates a 90% average attendance at scheduled meetings. He compared the new policy with attendance provisions in the existing VAC bylaws, as well as those of the Board of Supervisors. He stressed the importance of notification; that is the need to notify Commission Officers if you are going to miss a meeting.

He also distributed a copy of the current comprehensive ATTENDANCE RECORD indicating individual notations for each Commission member's attendance status for 2014 meetings. Commissioner Jenkins requested that her attendance record be corrected to reflect an excused absence from the June 2014 meeting. President Noetzel noted that several commissioners had perfect attendance records.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

# B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Maffei announced that he had nothing to report this month.

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# C. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Burnette was absent: No Report.

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### Agenda Item 3. NEW Business

A. President Noetzel Introduced a DISCIPLINARY ACTION ITEM regarding Secretary Lee Burnette attendance and performance. It was noted that Secretary Burnette was currently absent without notice. President Noetzel provided background information on the Commission's election process and responsibilities of the Secretary position. President Noetzel presented information regarding performance failures of Secretary Burnette and how these failures have negatively impacted the Commission. Failures by Secretary Burnette include poor attendance, failure to record meeting minutes and failure to publicly post meeting notices. Two meetings have been cancelled since 2014 as result of these failures. Vice President Maffel added to this discussion and requested input from City Attorney Adorgass. Vice President Maffel described repeated attempts to reach out and ald Secretary Burnette with his duties but these efforts were ineffective.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of August 12, 2014 Page 2 of 3

A. Agenda Item 3 - New Business; (i.e. Disciplinary Action Re: Commission Secretary - CONTINUED....)

Commissioner Caldera objected to any language that characterizes Secretary Burnette's action as maleficent and requested that the Commission act with sensitivity not punitively. Following this discussion, Vice President Maffel made the following motion (2° Commissioner Guv):

Motion to remove Secretary Lee Burnette from the position of Secretary of this Commission, on the basis of his failure, over the past seven months, to perform the duties of his office. This action shall be effective immediately following the VAC General Meeting of September 9, 2014, during which Commissioner Burnette is invited to present his case for retention of his position as Secretary.

President Noetzel called a vote on the motion that resulted approved 11-0 with 4 abstentions.

Voting in favor of the Motion (11): Commissioners Baldonado, Gallagher, Jenkins, Kennedy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Ramirez, Smith, Weeby, and Wong.

Voting against the Motion (0): none.

Voting to abstain (4): Commissioners Caldera, Dacumos, Guy and Wilkerson.

The Motion carried by majority vote. VP Maffei agreed to write a formal (hard copy) letter to Commissioner Burnette to inform him of this decision, and invite him to attend the September VAC Meeting as provided in the Motion.

- B. Guest Brad Adams of Swords to Plowshares, made presentation regarding the proliferation of "Bad Paper" Discharges. Mr. Adams informed the Commission that there are issues associated with the 6 different types of military discharges that can affect a veteran's ability to receive benefits. Mr. Adams works to provide assistance to veterans and make changes to the law.
- C. Development of <u>SOLDIERS PLAZA</u> at Presidio. Commissioner Ramirez reported that there has been no further activity on this (earlier) initiative, and that no further activity is expected.

# Agenda item 4. OLD Business - Committee Reports

- A. Commissioner Kennedy reported the SFMTA has initiated an 18 month Pilot Program to evaluate Commuter Shuttle impacts including buses used to service the SF Veterans Medical Center. Program updates and action items will be provided in future meetings.
- B. Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services. Commissioner Ramirez that the Town Hall Collective was being rescheduled to August 29, 2014. Commissioner Dacumos reported that upcoming mental health summit is being planned and that support services are being assembled to attend this summit. Question: Is a formal letter required to invite members of the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee to the summit? President Noetzel and Commissioner Weeby suggested that invitations to this event do not need additional Commission action at this time.
  - Commissioners Marshall and Maffei reported on further research into the viability of Development of a City Department of

Military and Veterans Affairs. Commissioner Marshall provided an update on communications with the City of Los Angeles and will provide future updates.

# Agenda Item 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

No new reports on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

### Agenda Item 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Guest Paul Cox (a member of the American Legion War Memorial Commission Legal Action Team) reported on the status of potential Legal Action to secure appropriate Space Allocation for Veterans and Veterans Services in building after retrofit. Specifically, Mr. Cox described current litigation activities including the three main issues of patriotic organizations, space allocation and timing. Commissioner Calderon reminded the Commission that War Memorial Building has hosted many SFVAC meetings over the years and requested that future discussion are held for regarding SFVAC relocation in the future. Mr. Cox expressed interest in having the Commission return to the War Memorial building. Vice President Maffei asked how much of the 22,000 sq.ft. of space allocated and how much is already committed. Mr. Cox indicated there was space available and that any interested groups forward a letter of intent if interested.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of August 12, 2014 Page 3 of 3

# 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Guy announced that she is collecting gently used clothing and accessories until August 22<sup>nd</sup> for a conference on August 24-26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Caldera asked if Fleet Week and the Veterans Parade was happening this month and if these events could be placed on the next agenda. Commissioner Ramirez announced that War Memorial Building dedication coincides with the Veterans Day Parade. Commissioner Weeby announced that a woman's hack-a-thon is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> and sponsored by Vets in Tech. A swim from Alcatraz is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Weeby can be contacted for additional information. Mr. Adams announced that there are upcoming events that will be posted on Homeless Connect.

8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

# 9. AJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Minutes of the 8/12/14 VAC Meeting written by S. Noetzel, and D. Kennedy and approved, unanimously At the VAC General Meeting of 9/9/14.



# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address; S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

# Tuesday, September 9, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Stephen S. Noetzel, Presiding

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> Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

> ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)

- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of August 12, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of quests and general comments by quests).

# 2. Officers REPORTS:

A. President's Report: President Noetzel to report: "Where we are"

B. Vice Presidents Report; Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report.

C. Secretary's Report: Sec'v Burnette to report (if applicable)

# 3. NEW Business.

- A. Port Chicago National Memorial Project. Presentation by lead Comm. Jenkins and guest. Rev. McDaniel of Friends of Port Chicago. Discussion of plan for future action by Commission.
- B. Veterans Court of San Francisco. Presentation by lead Comm. Maffei and guest, Judge Braden Woods of S.F. Veterans Court. Discussion of plan for future action by Commission
- C. Invitation for Secretary L. Burnette to address Commission to explain why he should not be removed as VAC Secretary, followed by Potential Action to Rescind Motion to Remove as taken during meeting of 8/12/14.
- D. Implementation of 8/12/14 Commission decision on Removal of Comm. Burnette as Commission Secretary. Note: Action Item only if Comm. Burnette fails to succeed in reinstatement (See item 'C' above)
- E. Action Item. Discussion and potential appointment of new Acting Secretary for balance of 2014.

# 4. OLD Business - Committee Reports

- A. Progress Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair).
- B. Progress Report from Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Commissioners Marshall and Maffei).

# 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

# 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments regarding WMVB.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities

8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

# 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify Commission President S. Noetzel prior to the meeting. Email <noetzelder@gmail.com> (Cell) 415.378.8214

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# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: Sep. 9, 2014

# Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the September Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6:00pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Ca

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners: Baldonado, Caldera, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Jenkins, Kennedy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Ramirez, Smith, Wilkerson, Wong (14)

Absent: Excused (1) Commissioner A. Weeby

Absent: Un-Excused (1) Commissioner L. Burnette.

Attending Guests: Judge Braden Woods, Rev. Diana McDaniel, George McDaniel, David Schneider, Amanda Davison, James McGhee. Latonia Dixon

City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also present.

Note: Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda was made by made by Comm. Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Kennedy. During discussion, Comm. Caldera protested that his request for an Agenda Item (for discussion of Fleet Week activities) had been inadvertently left off the Agenda by President Noetzel. After discussion the Agenda was APPROVED, as written with all Commissioners voting YEA, save Comm. Caldera who voted NAY.

# Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of May 13, 2014 (as written by Comm. Kennedy and President Noetzel), made by Comm. Maffei (2nd Comm. Ramírez). After some discussion a vote was taken and the subject Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

### Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Guest Latonia Dixon spoke to introduce two future events, including: 1) International Day of Peace on Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 2) October 10<sup>th</sup> Take Back the Night Healing Arts Festival. Event details were included in the handouts.
- B. Guest Amanda Davison spoke to introduce a new program she has developed, called TOMTAH. The new venture is designed to repurpose outdated phones so they can be used by people in need. Ms. Davison provided details on how the program works, how it can help people and need and how phone donors can participate in the program.

# Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

# A. President's Report;

President Noetzel began his Report by thanking Commissioner Ramirez for his work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Mental Health Homeless Summit. President Noetzel announced that there would be a Latino Heritage Gelebration at City Hall on October 9<sup>th</sup> the Veterans Day Parade is scheduled if anybody wants to volunteer or participate.

# B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Maffei announced that he had nothing to report this month, but that he would yield his time for a Report from Commissioner Caldera, on the subject of Fleet Week in San Francisco. Commissioner Caldera discussed emergency preparedness during Fleet Week.

### C. Secretary's Report;

Commissioner Burnette was absent: No Report.

# Agenda Item 3. NEW Business

- A. Port Chicago National Memorial Project. Lead Comm. Jenkins introduced guest. Rev. Diana McDaniel of Friends of Port Chicago. There was a 30 minute presentation regarding the history the Port Chicago Explosion and current status of the 50 sallors that have not been exonerated for their crimes. Speakers described activities designed to bring awareness and improvements to the Port Chicago Memorial. Commissioner Jenkins volunteered to follow up with action items on during a future VAC meeting.
- B. <u>Veterans Court of San Francisco.</u> Vice President Maffei introduced guest Judge Braden Woods of S.F. Veterans Justice Court. Judge Woods presented a report on the growth and successes of the Veterans Justice Court. String in 2013, the goal of SFVJC is keep veterans out of the criminal justice system and through substance abuse and treatment. Services are provided without regard to discharge status and currently apply to misdemeanor cases that are non-violent in nature. Judge Woods provided information on outreach efforts details on how their case management system works to provide wap around services.

# Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of September 9, 2014 Page 2 of 3

- C. Invitation for Secretary Burnette to address Commission. Note: Comm. Burnette was again Absent Without Notice.
- D. Formal Removal of Comm. Burnette as Commission Secretary.
  No further action required as Comm. Burnette was absent. Formal Removal of previous meeting stands.
- E. Discussion and appointment of new Commission Secretary.

President Noetzel spoke of the need for a Commission Secretary, to replace former Secretary Burnette, for the remainder of 2014. He reported that Commissioner DWANE KENNEDY had filled in admirably (without title) and performed much of the work of Commission Secretary over the past two months. He suggested that the Commission night want to APPOINT Commissioner Kennedy, as Acting Secretary for the remainder of the Administration Year.

Comm. Caldera suggested that after 9 months of uncertainty in the position of Secretary, the Commission would be better served via appointment of a fully recognized Secretary. Comm. Caldera then made a MOTION to appoint and aftire Commissioner Dwane Kennedy as Commission Secretary for the remainder of 2014. (2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. Maffei). After some discussion the question was called and a vote taken on the Motion. All Commissioners - save one (Comm. Ramirez: Abstain) voted for the appointment. Commissioner Kennedy closed the matter by thanking the Commission for their vote of confidence.

### Agenda item 4. OLD Business - Committee Reports

Commissioner Ramirez described activities and attendance at the recent Mental Health Summit. Commissioner Dacumos added information about the continued homelessness outreach.

Commissioner Marshall provided an updated on the effort to create a new City Department dedicated to Veterans Affairs. Recent communications with the City of Los Angeles had been useful to identify best practices and lessons learned.

# Agenda item 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioner Dong described the status AB 935 to provide veterans designation on a California Drivers License and asked Commissioners to contact Governor Brown an encourage him to sign AB 935.

### Agenda item 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Legal research continues on the existing lawsuit. The opening date for the building is scheduled for August 2015. Future meetings will need to discuss the long term location of the VAC. Commissioners expressed interest a walk-through of the building.

# 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Caldera described a recent event that he attended regarding the use of reclamation funds related to the Vietnam War including munitions removal and repairs to airports. President Noetzel provided additional information on the event and asked if others were interested in the issue.

Commissioner Marshall announced two upcoming events 1) Veterans Start-up School 2) IRAP fundraiser on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Ramirez announced October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 is the War Memorial Dedication

Commissioner Guy announced Eastbay Stand-down is scheduled for September 11-14<sup>th</sup> at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. The Alcatraz Swim starts at 7:00 a.m. on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Aduatic Park.

Commissioner Caldera noted that employees of Twitter are being threatened by ISIS.

8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence; In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died white waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community.

### 9. AJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes of the 9/9/14 VAC Meeting written by Secretary Dwane Kennedy and approved unanimously (with minor corrections) at VAC meeting of 10/14/14.

GOVERNMENT

DOCUMENTS DEPT

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# VETERNS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco City Hall #1 Goodlet Place, Room 051 San Francisco, CA 94102

10-10-14A11:06 RCVD

# MEETING AGENDA

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 6:00 p.m. Meeting Location: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Stephen S. Noetzel, Presiding

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- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of September 10, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).

# 2. Officers REPORTS:

- A. President's Report; President Noetzel to report. ELECTIONS start in November.

  Comm. Dacumos Recap of 9/27 "ReEntry Fair.
- B. Vice Presidents Report: Vice President Michael MAFFEI to report.
- C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Dwane Kennedy to report.

# 3. NEW Business.

- A. Discussion and possible ACTION to adopt Resolution regarding Relocation of the S.F. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to the Veteran's building. (as Submitted by Comm. Noetzel and ALWMC).
- B. Discussion and possible ACTION to adopt Resolution regarding Exoneration of the Port Chicago Sailors (as Submitted by Comm. Jenkins)
- C. Discussion of San Francisco Human Resources Commission Implicit Bias Training with potential application to SF VAC (Lead: Comm Jenkins).

# 4. OLD Business - Committee Reports

- A. Progress Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair).
- B. Progress Report from Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Commissioners Marshall and Maffei).

# 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

# 6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments regarding WMVB.

- 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community including the recent suicide of JACOB GEORGE, a 3-tour Afghanistan War veteran and friend of the San Francisco Veteran's Community.
- a 3-tour Alghanistan war veteran and friend of the San Francisco veteran's Community.

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify Commission President S. Noetzel prior to the meeting. Email <noetzelder@gmail.com> (Cell) 415.378.8214

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the SECOND TUESDAY of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 416 in CITY HALL

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

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# APPROVED MINUTES Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Oct. 14, 2014

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# Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the October Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6:25pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

# Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: Commissioners: Caldera, Dacumos, Gallagher, Guy, Jenkins, Marshall, Noetzel, Weeby, Wilkerson, Wong (10)

wilderson, wong (10)
Absent: Excused (4) Comm. R. Baldonado (Illness), Comm. D. Kennedy (Schedule Conflict), Comm. M. Maffei (Illness),
Comm. E. Ramirez (Schedule Conflict).

Absent: Un-Excused (2) Commissioner L. Burnette, Commissioner B. Smith

# Attending Guests: ALWMC Commissioner Wallace Levin.

City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also present.

Note: Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.

# Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda was made by made by Comm. Wong 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Jenkins. After minor discussion, the Agenda was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, as written.

# Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of September 9, 2014 (as written by Comm. Kennedy), made by Comm. Jenkins, (2nd Comm. Marshall). After some discussion and minor corrections, a vote was taken and the subject Minutes were unanimously approved.

# Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Guest (ALWMC Commissioner) Wallace Levin provided an update on the VETERANS DAY PARADE scheduled for Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014. He informed the Commission that after many years of organizing the Parade along the traditional Market Street Route, an attempt was made to relocate the parade to a new route through North Beach. Unfortunately lapaning effort faltered as North Beach merchants felt that the parade might inhibit commerce. Therefore the Parade will once again move along the traditional Market Street Route - from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to City Hall park, starting at 11am on Sunday, 11/9. He distributed parade posters and asked Commissioners to help promote the parade, and to volunteer for Parade Marshal duties on Parade Day.

# Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

# A. President's Report;

President Noetzel began his Report by reminding all that the November Meeting of the SFVAC has been RESCHEDULED to WEDNESDAY, the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, as our regular "second Tuesday" meeting date is Veterans Day, and City Hall is closed for that Holiday. Commissioners were also reminded that as per our Bylaws, NOMINATIONS for Officers for the 2015 Administrative Year will start at the NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### B. Vice Presidents Report:

V.P. Maffei was absent: No Report.

### C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Kennedy was absent: No Report.

# Agenda Item 3. NEW Business

A Discussion and ACTION to adopt Resolution regarding Relocation of the S.F. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to the Veteran's building. President Noetzel initiated discussion on this item by distributing copies of a RESOLUTION passed by the American Legion War Memorial Commission in their meeting of 7 October, 2014. After some context information regarding the importance of the official City of San Francisco Memorial Monument that honors the memory of the 163 San Franciscans that perished in that war, the Resolution goes on to describe the poor condition of the bronze plaque, at its current inconspicuous location at the foot of Market Street. It concludes that in its current location and condition, the Memorial does not received the recognition and reverence that it deserves, and finally, it supports the renovation of the memorial, and its RELOCATION into a place of conspicuous honor in the foyer of the War Memorial Veterans Building. After some discussion and viewing of several photographs that indicate the current condition of disrepair of the Monuments, a MOTION was made by Comm. Marshall (2<sup>th</sup>, Comm. Guy) stating that the SFVAC fully of the ALWMC Resolution. After minimal further discussion the question was called and a vote taken. The MOTION to SUPPORT the ALWMC Resolution passed unanimously. At this point, President Noetzel distributed copies of a MIRROR RESOLUTION that he had authored, that announces VAC Support for the ALVMIC Resolution, and affirms its affirmation with a Resolution of its own, that MIRRORS, point by point, the entirety of the ALVMIC Resolution, and adds its voice to the call for Relocation of the Memorial.

# 

Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting of October 14, 2014 Page 2 of 2

Agenda item 3A: ACTION to adopt Resolution regarding Relocation of the S.F. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to the Veteran's building. (Continued).

After further discussion, a MOTION was made (by Comm. Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Dacumos) to adopt the VAC 'Mirror Resolution', and transmit it, and the original ALWMC Motion, with photographs, to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Trust of the War Memorial Complex, with a Letter of Transmittal (Signed by Pres. Noetzel) urging them to take action to insure the restoration and protection of this important monument. A vote was taken and the MOTION passed unanimously. President Neetzel will follow through with the subject letter(s) and transmittal of the Resolutions.

- B. Discussion and possible ACTION to adopt Resolution regarding Exoneration of the Port Chicago Sailors as <u>Submitted by Comm. Jenkins</u>). Comm. Jenkins reviewed background of the ongoing effort to exonerate and correct the records of the veterans of the Port Chicago Disaster. She distributed copies of a proposed Resolution on the issue. After some discussion Comm. Jenkins agreed that additional work on the Resolution might give it greater impact. Pres. Noetzel agreed to work with Comm. Jenkins on an effort to strengthen the Resolution for re-submission at a future meeting.
- c. Discussion of San Francisco Human Resources Commission Implicit Bias Training. Comm. Jenkins informed the commission of the potential for new formal training opportunities, for City of S.F. employees, on the subject of Implicit Bias, and how to recognize it, and how to preclude it. She will monitor progress of this potential training, and if it is scheduled for City Employees, will bring it up at a future meeting for potential to seek similar training for SFVAC and other Commissions.

# Agenda Item 4. OLD Business - Committee Reports

A. Comm. Marshall provided a short progress report on the continuing dialogue with personnel of the Los Angeles County Department of Veterans Affairs, to learn how they succeeded in establishing that Department. Commissioners Maffei and Marshall will continue to research and report on potential for establishing a San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs, in future VAC meetings.

# Agenda Item #5 - Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

No reports on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation this month.

# Agenda Item #6 - WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

President Noetzel reported that Remodel work on the War Memorial Veterans Building continues almost on schedule, and building is now expected to be re-opened by September, 2015. Pres. Noetzel is also working with leadership of the ALWMC to schedule a "Hard-hat Inspection Tour" so that Commission members can view construction progress. More announcements to be made as tour schedule is confirmed.

### Agenda Item #7 - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of November (Veterans Day), the San Francisco VETERANS DAY PARADE steps off at 11:00am, and will once again follow the traditional route from Second Street to City Hall at McAllister. Parade march Parade Director Wallace Levine asks that all parade volunteers arrive by 10am.

On Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, from 6 – 8pm at the SF (Main) Public Library (100 Larkin St.) the University of San Francisco (USF) will host their annual "Community in Conversation" event, a series of conversations (with veterans) about Veterans Issues in SF. (Announced by Comm. D. Guy)

On Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014, starting at 7pm, there will be a Holiday Party for veterans and the Veterans Community at the RED JACK SALOON, at 131 Bay Street, San Francisco. Event is free but tips and raffle ticket funds will go towards local Veterans non-profits. (Announced by Comm. D. Guy)

Agenda Item #8 - Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community – including the recent suicide of JACOB GEORGE, a 3-tour Alghanistan War veteran and friend of the San Francisco Veteran's Community.

# Agenda Item #9. - AJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Minutes of the 10/14/14 VAC Meeting written by Secretary Dwane Kennedy, and Approved, unanimously, at VAC Meeting of 11/12/14



# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco. CA 94102

# WEDNESDAY, November 12, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA President Stephen S. Noetzel, Presiding

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- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of October 14, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).
- 2. Officers REPORTS:
- A. President's Report: President Noetzel to report on status of Resolution on Relocation of the S.F. Vietnam Veterans Memorial and other issues.
  - B. Vice Presidents Report: Vice President Michael Maffei to report.
  - C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Dwane Kennedy to report.
- 3. Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2014 Term.
  - A. Secretary to distribute copies of portions of the Bylaws, which pertain to, and describe the Duties and Responsibilities of each of the 3 Officer Positions that constitute the Executive Board.
  - B. President to open floor for NOMINATIONS, for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SEVAC, in accordance with established Bylaws. Secretary to Record all Nominations.
- 4. NEW Business.
  - A. Discussion and formulation of Plan of Action regarding Best Path Forward to adopt Resolution regarding Exoneration of the Port Chicago Sailors (Lead: Comm. Jenkins)
  - B. Site Visit Schedule. Selection (by lot) of Commission Members to observe construction progress at WMB.
- 4. OLD Business Committee Reports
  - A. Progress Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair).
  - B. Progress Report from Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, (Commissioners Marshall and Maffei).
- 5. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

6. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments regarding WMVB.

- 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 8. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community
- 9. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify Commission President S. Noetzel prior to the meeting. Email <noetzelder@gmail.com> (Cell) 415.378.8214

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# Veterans' Affairs Commission - November 12, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

Veterans' Affairs Commission - November 12, 2014 Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: Nov. 12, 2014

### Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the November Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6:12pm. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

# Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: (10) Commissioners: Caldera, Gallagher, Jenkins, Kennedy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Ramirez, Wong,

Absent: Excused (5) Comm. R. Baldonado (Illness), Comm. D. Dacumos (Illness), Comm. D. Guy (Schedule Conflict) Comm. B. Smith (Illness), Comm. A. Weeby (Schedule Conflict)

Absent: Un-Excused (2) Commissioner L. Burnette, Commissioner E. Wilkerson

City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also present.

Note: Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.

### Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda was made by made by Comm. Wong 2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Jenkins. After minor discussion, the Agenda was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, as written,

### Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of October 14, 2014 (as written by Comm. Kennedy), made by Comm. Jenkins, (2nd Comm. Marshall). After some discussion, a vote was taken and the subject Minutes were unanimously approved.

# Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

### Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

# A. President's Report;

President Noetzel provided an update on further progress of the Resolution (passed last month by the VAC) on the Relocation of the S.F. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to the Veteran's building. He advised that the VAC Resolution was combined with the original American Legion War Memorial Commission Resolution as part of an October 22, 2014 LETTER, from ALWMC Chair Paul Cox, to General Myatt and the S.F. Board of Trust, in formal request that the subject Memorial Plaque be relocated to a place of honor within the War Memorial Veterans Building.

# B. Vice Presidents Report;

V.P. Maffel reported that he is almost finished writing the ANNUAL REPORT and will submit his draft for consideration by the Commission on time, at the January VAC Meeting.

### C. Secretary's Report,

Secretary Kennedy - nothing to report.

### Agenda Item 3, Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2015 Term.

- A. President Noetzel distributed copies of the current Commission By-Laws, making particular reference to Articles that provide a listing of the PRIMARY DUTIES of each elected officer. He reminded Commissioners that when they make NOMINATIOS to the various offices, they should verify beforehand that the potential nominee is aware of the Duties of the Office, and is WILLING to execute such duties, if elected.
- B. President Noetzel then moved to the Nominating Process to for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, Indicating that in accordance with the Bylaws, in addition to the current (November) meeting, NOMINATIONS for all positions will again be opened during the DECEMBER meeting, and AGAIN, for the third time, just prior to the VOTE, in the JANUARY MEETING.

Pres. Noetzel then opened the floor for Naminations for the Office of Commission Secretary. Comm. Wilkerson nominated current Secretary, Comm. Dwane KENNEDY for Secretary. He accepted the nomination. After two additional unanswered calls for further nominations for Secretary, Pres. Noetzel closed nominations for that position.

Pres. Noetzel then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission Vice President. Comm. Raminez rominated Comm. Jeff MARSHALL for Vice President. He accepted the nomination. In a second call, Comm. Wong rominated current VP Comm. Michael MAFFEI for VP. He also accepted the nomination. After an additional unanswered calls for further nominations for Vice President. Pres. Neetzel closed nominations for that position.

Pres. Noetzel then opened the floor for Nominafons for the Office of Commission President. Comm. Kennedy nominated current President, Comm. Stephen NOETZEL for President. He accepted the nomination. After two additional unanswered calls for further nominations for President, Pres. Noetzel closed nominations for that position.

Continuation of Agenda Item 3, Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2015 Term.

ans' Affairs Commission - November 12, 2014 - Meeting Minutes ... http://sfgov.org/vets/veterans-affairs-commission/meeting/2014-novem...

- e For the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. D. KENNEDY
- o For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. J. MARSHALL and Comm. M. MAFFEI
- o For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL

### Agenda Item 4. NEW Business.

# A. Port Chicago Sailors Exoneration Efforts

Comm. Jenkins Discussion and formulation of Plan of Action regarding Best Path Forward to adopt a resolution regarding exoneration of the Port Chicago Sailors.

Commissioner Jenkins advised the Commission that more information would be provided at future meetings.

### B. Site Visit Schedule

President Neetzel announced that a lour of the Veterans Memorial Building was scheduled for December g<sup>fh</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Since the lour group was limited to 7, President Neetzel asked for volunteers to attend the lour. The following Commissioners volunteered to attend the lour Kennedy Golfagher, Neetzel, Caldera, Raminez, Wilkerson and Wong, Persident Neetzel advised Commissioners that he would follow up with details in a fortnowing E-mail.

### Agenda Item 5. OLD Business - Committee Reports

A. Progress Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair). Commissioner Ramirez

provided a brief update on Mental Health Services and the continuation of the Veterans Town Hall event being held each month at the Federal Building.

B. Progress Report from Research Team on <u>Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs</u>.

Commissioner Marshall updated the Commission that information gather from similar jurisdictions was ongoing.

# Agenda Item 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioner Wong announced the passage of AB-531 that would allow for a Veterari's Designation on California Drivers Licenses – beginning in January of 2015.

Commissioner Wong will provide additional details as the legislation is implemented.

# Agenda Item 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

President Noetzel announced that litigation efforts were ongoing.

# Agenda Item 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several Veteran related events were announced by Commissioners for the month of November and early December. Description of events and event details will be posted on the Social Media Pages of the VAC Website.

Agenda Item 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterants and severerant who died while waiting approximation of benefits requests and succides within the veterant and made services community, and specificatily on his sadd day, the passing of Irray Ware Veteran and Peace Activist THOMAS / VOIUNS, who died of his panalyzing venuals yesterday, at age of

erans' Affairs Commission - November 12, 2014 - Meeting Minutes ... http://sfgov.org/vets/veterans-affairs-commission/meeting/2014-noven

Agenda Rem 10. AJORNMENT

(At 7:18pm)

Minutes of the 11/12/14 VAC Meeting written by Secretary Dwane Kennedy, and unanimously approved

(with minor corrections) at the VAC meeting of December 9, 2014

(with minor corrections) at the VAC meeting of December 9, 201

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

City & County of San Francisco

Mailing Address: S.F. Veterans Affairs Commission, City Hall #1 Goodlett Place, Room 051, San Francisco, CA 94102

# Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 6:00pm MEETING AGENDA Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco, CA

Meeting LOCATION: Room 416, City Hall, San Francisco,
President Stephen S, Noetzel, Presiding

- > Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- > ROLL CALL (Please Sign-In on Attendance Sheet)
- > REVIEW of Current Meeting AGENDA for approval (Action Item)
- > REVIEW of Draft Meeting MINUTES for VAC Meeting of November 12, 2014 for changes and/or Approval (Action Item)
- 1. Call for Public Comment. (Time reserved for introduction of guests and general comments by guests).
- 2. Officers REPORTS:
  - A. President's Report; President Noetzel to report on misc. issues.
  - B. Vice Presidents Report; Vice President Michael Maffei to report.
  - C. Secretary's Report; Sec'y Dwane Kennedy to report.

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3. Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2015 Term (Round 2 of 3).

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- A. Secretary to REVIEW Nominations to date:
- > For the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. D. KENNEDY
- ➤ For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. M. MAFFEI and Comm. J. MARSHALL
- For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL

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- B. President to re-open floor for NOMINATIONS, for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, in accordance with current Bylaws. Secretary to Record all Nominations.
- 4. NEW Business.
  - A. Site Visit Report: Commissioners who participated in recent tour of construction progress at the War Memorial Veterans Building to report on their observations.
- 5. OLD Business Committee Reports
  - A. Progress Report from Committee on Veterans Mental Health Services (Comm. Ramirez, Chair).
  - B. Progress Report from Research Team on Development of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Commissioners Marshall and Maffei).
  - C. Progress Report on Plan of Action regarding Exoneration of the Port Chicago Sailors (Lead: Comm. Jenkins)
- 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments in the area of Veterans Legislation.

7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Commissioners invited to Report on report on new developments regarding WMVB.

- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Floor opened for short announcements of veteran related events and/or activities
- 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterans and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and armed services community
- 10. AJORNMENT

Note: Commissioners who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify Commission President S. Noetzel prior to the meeting. Email <noetzelder@gmail.com>(Cell) 415.378.8214

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# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETINGS

General Meetings of the VAC are scheduled for 6:00pm (on) the SECOND TUESDAY of every month, (with rare exception), and are generally held in ROOM 416 in CITY HALL

MEETING CONFIRMATION, and Specific Announcement of General Meetings are made via public Posting of MEETING AGENDAS as required by law, some 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for Commission Meetings (and archive of Meeting Minutes) are available on the VAC Pages of the City of San Francisco WEBSITE, and are also available for Public View and inspection at the (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) Government Information Center of the San Francisco (Main) Public Library, at 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102. (Documents Librarian Telephone 415-557-4472)

### DISABILITY ACCESS

CITY HALL of San Francisco is wheelchair accessible via all entrances. There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more Public Transit information services, call 415-923-6142.

# Veterans' Affairs Commission - December 9, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

Veterans' Affairs Commission - December 9, 2014
Minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting: Dec. 9, 2014

# Call to Order

Having achieved a Quorum (see Roll Call, below), the November Meeting (of the SFVAC) was called to order (in City Hall Hearing Room #416) by President Stephen Noetzel at 6:00om. Meeting started with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance.

# Roll Call

In Attendance for the Meeting: (11) Commissioners; Baldonado, Caldera, Dacumos, Guy, Jenkins, Kennedy, Maffei, Marshall, Noetzel, Wilkerson and Wong,

Absent: Excused (4) Comm. Comm. J. Gallagher, (Schedule Conflict), Comm. B. Smith (Illness), Comm. E. Ramirez (Schedule Conflict), Comm. A. Weeby (Schedule Conflict).

Absent: Un-Excused (1) Commissioner L. Burnette

City Attorney was not present. Note: Commission strength currently at 16 members, with one (Mayoral Appointed) Vacancy.

# Approval of AGENDA

Motion to accept Agenda was made by made by Comm. Maffei (2<sup>nd</sup>, Comm. Wilkerson). After minor discussion, the Agenda was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, as written.

# Review of Minutes of Previous VAC meeting.

Motion to Approve draft of Minutes for VAC meeting of November 12, 2014 (as written by Comm. Kennedy), made by Comm. Baldonado (2nd Comm. Caldera). After some discussion, a vote was taken and the subject Minutes were unanimously approved.

### Agenda item 1 - Call for PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Jenkins reported that she recently attended a presentation at San Francisco State University regarding the "Prison

Industrial Complex". Commissioner Dacumos announced that attended the "Brain War Conference" at the Marines Memorial. The

Secretary of Veterans Affairs attended the conference and Commissioner Dacumos advised the Secretary that more needs to be

done to address moral injuries suffered by Veterans.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT

Agenda item 2 - Officers Reports

### A. President's Report:

President Noetzel reported on an important meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, when he and American Legion War Memorial Commission Chairman Paul Cox.), met with S.F. Supervisor

Mark FARRELL in his office. Meeting began with a presentation of our efforts (to date) to Relocate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (plaque) from current location in Justin Herman Plaza, to Lobby of War Memorial Veterans Building. We gave Supervisor Farrell an oral background of this issue, and present 3 documents. Including:

A copy of 10/7/14 ALWMC Resolution requesting Relocation of Memorial.

A copy of SEVAC Mirror Resolution of 10/14/14 requesting Relocation of Memorial, and A copy of 10/22/14 Letter to BOT (from Paul Cox) requesting Relocation of Memorial

Subv. Fameli expresses great interested in this issue. He will have his staff initiate research to determine exactly which City Agency "owns" the Plague, or takes

President Noetzel and Chairman Cox then provided (to Supv. Famell) a General outline of our struggle to retain adequate space allocation for Veterans Organizations and Activities after remodel and building reopening in fall of 2015. The Supervisor was very interested in the issue and requested more background details. On 12/8/14 Chairman Cox wrote a FOLLOW UP EMAIL to inform Supy, Farrell of some of the elements pertinent to the ongoing struggle that the Veterans Community...is having with the Board of Trust, over Retention of adequate SPACE for Veterans and Veterans activities, in the (remodeled) WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING.

# B. Vice Presidents Report.

V.P. Maffei reported that he is almost finished writing the ANNUAL REPORT and will submit his draft for consideration by the Commission on time, at the January VAC

# C. Secretary's Report;

Secretary Kennedy presented Commissioners with a book written by Starbucks CEO Howard Shultz. The book is a collection of stories depicting Veterans contribution to citizenship, heroism and sacrifice. Proceeds from the sales of the book are being donated to the Onward Veteran Fund. Secretary Kennedy encouraged Commissioners to read the book and pass it along with the coffee gift card to any veteran in need.

# Agenda Item 3. Final Opened NOMINATIONS for VAC Officers for 2015 Term.

- A. President Noetzel opened the Nominating Process to for each of the 3 Officer Positions of the SFVAC, Indicating that
  - in accordance with the Bylaws, this Nominating Session will be the final opportunity for formal nominations as the VOTE for
  - 2015 officers will be held, after "Campaign Speeches" at the JANUARY VAC MEETING.
  - Pres. Noetzel asked Secretary Kennedy to Review nominations already in place. The Secretary reported, as follows:
- Earlier nominated for the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. D. KENNEDY
- · Earlier nominated for the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT; Comm. J. MARSHALL and Comm. M. MAFFEI
- · Earlier nominated for the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL
- B President Noetzel then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission Secretary. After three unanswered calls
  - for further nominations for Secretary, Pres. Neetzel closed nominations for that position.

Pres. Noetzell then opened the floor for Nominetions for the Office of Commission Vice President. After three unanswered calls

for further nominations for Secretary, Pres. Noetzel closed nominations for that position.

ans' Affairs Commission - December 9, 2014 - Meeting Minutes | ... http://sfgov.org/vets/veterans-affairs-commission/meeting/2014-decem...

Pres. Noetzel then opened the floor for Nominations for the Office of Commission President. Comm. Guy nominated Commissioner Angela JENKINS. She accepted the nomination. After two additional unanewered calls for further nominations for President. Pres. Noetzel closed nominators for that position.

To Review: The current list of accepted nominations for the 2015 term include:

- o For the Office of VAC SECRETARY: Comm. D. KENNEDY
- o For the Office of VAC VICE PRESIDENT: Comm. J. MARSHALL and Comm. M. MAFFEI
- . For the Office of VAC PRESIDENT: Comm. S. NOETZEL, and Comm. A. JENKINS

### Agenda Item 4. NEW Business.

A. Site Visit Report: Commissioners who participated in the December 9 Site Tour of construction progress at the War Memorial Veterans Building reported on their observations during the 75-minute tour. Attendees included Commissioners Kennedy, Noetzel, Caldera, Ramirez, Wilkerson and Wong.

# Agenda Item 5. OLD Business - Committee Reports

A. Veterans Committee on Mental Health- No Report

B. Commissioner Marshall gave a progress report regarding formation of a City Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

This update included detailed information on the history of a similar agency in LA County that was supported by Mayor

Garcetti and creatively funded and staffed.

C. Commissioner Jenkins updated the Commission on ongoing efforts to exonerate the Port Chicago Sailors, Commissioner

Caldera added that he was successful in setting up a meeting with Supervisor Cohen. Commissioner Caldera expressed

concern that City Attorney Snodgrass was not in attendance to answer legal guestions regarding how independent

Commissions work together. President Noetzel suggested that Commissioner Caldera contact Mr. Snodgrass via email

for specific legal questions.

### Agenda Item 6. Veterans Related LEGISLATION.

A. Commissioner Guy announced that Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act was passed today in the House of Representatives.

### Agenda Item 7. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

President Noetzel announced that litigation efforts were ongoing but not much new to report. Commissioner Caldera reminded

the Commission that the current litigation is not within the purview of the SFVAC. President Noetzel stated that the SFVAC is

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committed to supporting the veteran's use and access to the building through legislative action or litigation support.

# Agenda Item 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several Veteran related events were announced by Commissioners for the month of December. Description of events and event details will be posted on the website and social networking pages.

Agenda Item 9. Honors Report and Moment of Silence: In memory of American Armed Service members who have made the utilimate sacrifice in all wars and conflicts, plus the passing of homeless veterars and veterans who died while waiting approval of benefits requests and suicides within the veterans and ammed services community, including, this month, at the December 7th Pearl Harbor Anniversary, honoring the last four San Francisco Veterans to survive that tragic event, who passed away during the same two week period this November, namely. Robert V. GILLI LAND, Pablo SILVA-RE, Raiph P. ANDERSON JL, and Rajh TURNER.

# Agenda Item 10. ADJORNMENT

(At 6:55pm)

Minutes of the 12/9/14 VAC Meeting written by Secretary Dwane Kennedy,

and approved by unanimous vote at VAC meeting of January 13, 2015







